Daily Report

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Venezuelan OAS Candidate 'Confident' of Support

FL2409220093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2119 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 24, CANA—Former Venezuelan Acting Foreign Minister and veteran diplomat, Dr Miguel Burelli Rivas, left here Friday saying he was confident of winning Guyana's and the Caribbean's endorsement for his bid to become the next secretary general of the Organisation of American States (OAS). Dr Burelli Rivas, acknowledged, however, the going would not be easy since he formally launched his election bid only two weeks ago.

Asked about the Caribbean response to his campaign, he said it was "very well". He added: "Of course, votes are not given immediately. We present the names and the ideas to the foreign government and we expect the best consideration and wait for the opportune answer. In general, the Caribbean response has been satisfactory, as we expected."

If elected, the former director general of Venezuela's External Affairs Ministry said he would seek to inject new ideas in the operation of the OAS. Its present priorities, he told reporters, are peace, human rights, the resolution of conflicts, conciliation and democracy. "As a good system which must work, I will follow the same problems. I will act according to the need of the time. He said he would focus on "the question about new education, health programmes, justice, housing, environment".

* Colombian-Chilean Joint Ventures Proposed

93SM0425A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 20 Aug 93 p 3B

[Article by Cesar Augusto Giraldo B.: "Chilean Businessmen Propose Joint Venture to Colombia"]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—We do not have to wait for governments to bring about integration. This is the watchword of Chilean and Colombian businessmen, who want to build a trade bridge between the two countries.

The adviser to the National Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Industry of Chile (Conupia), Jorge Pemjean Ureta, proposed a strategic alliance between businessmen from the two nations to Colombian entrepreneurs yesterday.

Pemjean brought with him a specific proposal for integration through joint ventures between small and medium-sized businessmen in the Chilean Association of Manufacturing Exporters (Acexma) to promote an alliance among companies.

Acexma comprises more than 300 small and medium-sized businesses that focus exclusively on the international market.

As Chilean businessmen see it, this is a clear-cut opportunity for the two nations to have access to a much broader market. It is, in effect, an entryway for Colombian private industry into the Southern Cone, specifically Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

The Chilean leader also said that it is an excellent opportunity for Chile to reestablish ties with the Andean Pact through a nation like Colombia, which offers promising possibilities.

Latin Joint Venture

Comparative and strategic advantages, strong and weak points, trade missions, legislation, and the tax codes in the two countries are some of the issues that businessmen will have to master in order to enter into such contracts.

In the view of small and medium-sized Chilean industrialists, this would be a quick way to build a strong commercial relationship, which would naturally lead to the development of new products, technologies, and arrangements for foreign trade.

Bilateral Trade

Colombia has a trade surplus with Chile. In 1991, Chile's imports from Colombia totaled $159.4 million, while its exports to Colombia stood at $53.6 million.

The surplus fell to $32.3 million in 1992. The reason was that Chile's imports dropped off, due to a rice glut that required protective tariffs for domestic growers.

Also, the increase in Chilean exports to Colombia was seen in chickpeas, apples, wines, chemical paste from conifers, wire rod, and refined copper piping.

The trade opportunities that the Chilean market offers to world industry are basically to be found in 10 areas.

Some of them are air conditioning equipment, foodstuffs, hardware and building materials, electric motors, computers, and electronic items.

According to the figures of the National Association of Chilean Importers, the country's overall purchases amount to $2.8 billion, accounting for 30 percent of total imports.

After the Storm

After the heated speeches by the president of Acopi [Colombian Associations of Small Industries], German Bula, and the responses from the president of the republic, Cesar Gaviria, to the demands of industrialists, the struggle will continue until the government realizes that most of Colombia's industrial fabric consists of small and medium-sized businesses.

Therefore, whatever decisions are made on economic policy must not exclude this important sector, Bula Escobar.

*** Venezuelan Group To Invest in Colombian Financial Market**

93SM0425B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Aug 93 p 2C

[Text] The Grupo Latinamericano Progreso of Venezuela is kicking off a new stage of investments in Colombia. The organization will expand its investments in Colombia's financial market by setting up an affiliate of the Banco Progreso and, in the future, entering the stock market.

According to the group's president, Orlando Castro Llanez, investment in Colombia is approaching $30 million and will rise as a result of ongoing integration between Colombia and Venezuela.

The investments are in the areas of finance and insurance and include the opening of a field office of the Banco Progreso to support trade and business.

"Colombia is a very attractive market for Venezuelan investors because at present it is the number one buyer of Venezuelan products other than oil."

Venezuela's exports to Colombia rose from $181 million in the first half of 1991 to $375 million in the same period in 1993.

In addition, Venezuelan investment between January and July of this year topped $45 million, up 45 percent from the same period last year.

"The numbers for Colombian-Venezuelan and Andean Pact trade show that integration is a process that cannot be halted and that surmounts the bureaucratic barriers of governments," Castro said.

Also, the Banco Progreso of Venezuela yesterday signed a $6.5 million agreement with the Latin American Reserves Fund to finance Venezuelan exporters who are interested in the Colombian market.

This money, which was contributed by the governments of the countries that belong to the fund, will be managed by the bank of the Grupo Progreso. Another agreement for a similar amount will be signed soon to finance Colombian exports to Venezuela. In this case, the Financial Corporation Corfiunion will serve as the middleman.

According to Fernando Hernandez, the corporate vice president of the group in Colombia, the aim is to offer a complete package of financial services to all businessmen operating in the two countries: banking, insurance, leasing, merchandise warehousing, issuing bonds on the financial market, and other activities.

Moreover, the group's president revealed that talks are being held with the radio network Caracol to look into the possibilities of merging this company with Radio Cadena Mundial and Sistema Super Radio de Venezuela, which also belong to the Grupo Latinamericano Progreso.

The Grupo Progreso of Venezuela has investments in financial activities, insurance, radio and television, communications, tourism, and health-care services.

The group has expanded into various countries in the region, such as Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia. It also has branches of the Banco Progreso in the United States.

Cuba

Castro Speaks at Closing of CDR Congress

FL2809232093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2150 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz at the closing session of the Fourth Defense of the Revolution, CDR, Congress, in Guanabacoa Municipality, Havana, on 26 September—recorded]

[Text] National comrade Committees for the CDR leaders who have just been elected, comrade CDR leaders in Havana City Province, and comrade delegates to the Fourth CDR Congress for this province:

Well, I think this is a time for much work and few speeches, but I was afraid that it was going to be unavoidable for me, as I attend this session, to be charged with the honorable task of closing it. This is my fate [laughter]; that is, to close one congress after another.

As I arrived here at noon today, I found that the ventilation system of this room had broken down. That was all we needed, because the room became an oven. I was watching you use your fans. I think there was no one in the room without a fan, trying to get a little air. I believe that even I received some fresh air that was sent toward me by your fans. You have improvised here. I see that you are still using your fans, and rightly so.

Fortunately, someone had the bright idea of opening the old windows. Mother Nature has also decided to help us by sending us a little breeze. At least I can feel it here. I do not know whether Mother Nature is trying to help only those of us who are here. The breeze at least reduces the great sacrifice of having to be in this oven to close this event.

I must say that the idea of dividing the congress into sessions by provinces has been a truly brilliant one. I would call it a method for congresses in this special period. Thanks to this idea we have been able to make considerable savings. Just imagine how much we have saved in transportation costs, in fuel—which is in short supply—and in transportation in general; that is, train or bus fares.

Besides, the main thing has not been just the savings, as the comrades have told me. I have followed the various sessions in the press and over television, what has been published about them. I am not as familiar with things as those comrades who participated in each of these sessions of the congress. That is why I am not... [rephrases] I was perhaps not the best person to make the closing speech, because I really was not able to attend all the sessions, in all the provinces, given the current circumstances.

However, everyone tells me that holding the congress sessions by province has had mannificent results. I have been told that the discussions were very closely linked with the problems of each region and each province, and that things were discussed in depth, and that over 300 delegates spoke up. I think that is a record figure for a congress because I have never seen any event—not even those on the foreign debt, which used to last many days—in which 300 people have been able to participate in the discussions.

There is another fact: We were calculating that, if a single national congress had been held here in the capital, 800 people would have participated, whereas by doing things this way, some 2,600 delegates have participated. So, never has there been such a great opportunity for expressing opinions; never has there been such great participation; never has there been such linkage with the local problems. This has been one of the results stemming from this excellent idea. I understand other organizations are thinking about following similar procedures.

I have also been told that the delegates this time were elected directly by municipalities, not by the provinces. Thus, we could not have had a broader, more democratic process, with greater participation than this one we have just held. All this is so necessary and opportune at this juncture the country is undergoing.

Fundamental issues have been discussed here, every possible issue, but I understand—judging from what I have seen—that emphasis has been placed on key, decisive issues at this time. Everything relating to the defense of the Revolution, the number one issue; and everything relating to the fight against lumpens, against antisocial individuals, against crime, and against acts of vandalism.

Counterrevolution and acts of this nature are closely associated because the counterrevolution is, of course, permanently instigating individuals to break the law, to commit crimes, and to provoke problems.

The conterrevolution is precisely using the hundreds of radio hours at its service to promote every form of crime in our country, to promote crime and acts of vandalism, to promote acts of sabotage that may affect our country under these circumstances.

Although such actions may have always occurred here in one way or another, at this time they are much more harmful to our country, to our society, and to our Revolution.

We are, of course, not going through romantic times. For a long time, for many years we had times of romanticism and abundance here. We had known romantic times. We enjoyed times of abundance during which we went so far as not always making an appropriate use of our resources, at which time some wasteful habits were also developed.

These are difficult times. These are truly difficult times. This is why the combativness of the CDR today should

not be compared to that of the 1960's—to that of 1961, to that of the 60's—that is, to that existing when the CDR were founded in 1961.

Those were times of difficulties, of strong confrontations between the Revolution and the counterrevolution. Those were times of sabotage plots, of attacks. Those were times when there existed around 300 counterrevolutionary organizations.

I remember that four bombs exploded on the very day when the idea was launched to create the CDR, on 28 September 1961. Those four bombs indeed inspired the idea of the creation of the CDR, but while....[applause] This is why I state that those were times of difficulties, times of struggle.

They were not, however, as difficult as the ones we are experiencing now, because the USSR and the Socialist Bloc existed then. We were not living then in an unipolar world under the hegemonic rule of the United States; that is, under the hegemonic rule of Yankee imperialism.

Although the blockade was already in force, there were other circumstances. With one metric ton of sugar, one could buy eight metric tons of oil. I have time and again said this, and I will continue to repeat it because everyone must know, must understand, must become aware of this idea. There is a tremendous difference between the situation in 1961 and that of 1993.

I would say that if today we were able to buy eight metric tons of oil with one metric ton of sugar, we would not be having the difficulties we are having with our fuel supply, or the blackouts, or any of these problems.

Yet, the Middle East conflict provoked the creation of the OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; that is, a monopolistic organization, which practically controls oil prices. In today's world, this situation has resulted in those countries with other basic products—Third World countries that are not oil-producing countries—being forced to pay for oil with coffee, with fiber, with minerals, and other products at prices which are six or seven times higher than before.

Furthermore, in 1961 there were organizations protecting the prices of basic products through sugar agreements, coffee agreements, and cocoa agreements. There were several types of agreements aimed at protecting the prices of export products of many Third World countries. Those agreements have practically disappeared as a result of a new capitalist philosophy, as a result of neoliberal policies that have forced many countries into more difficult situations because of the decline of the prices of their export products and the increase in the price of oil.

Thus, this is a very important idea. If we had today the type of trade we had in 1961, we would not be having many of the problems we are having today, irrespective of the collapse of the Socialist Bloc. We sustained the heaviest blow because at least with the Socialist Bloc, with the USSR, we had exchanged sugar for oil. That happened in 1961. As the USSR disappeared, that trade was abruptly discontinued along with credits, supplies, and many other things. This situation led our economy to such a difficult situation.

While the USSR existed, we were able to defend ourselves against the blockade. While the USSR existed in the Socialist Bloc and we still maintained economic relations with it, the blockade was more bearable to us. A blockade that is today causing us far greater damage because we do not have anyone to rely on to fight it, because we are today lacking the resources and the solidarity extended to us by the Socialist Bloc, especially by the Soviet Union.

The blockade used to hurt us and it has caused us much damage during 30 years. Yet, the blockade is dealing us the most terrible damage at this time when it has intensified, when the world's hegemonic power is enforcing it, when this blockade is being enforced under new conditions when we can no longer count on those factors which had aided us so much in our struggle against imperialism and its blockade.

This situation has affected us not only economically, but also militarily and politically. Many of those...[rephrases] those countries had a established position in international organizations. Today, their position is different and they are generally consistent with the imperialist position.

The USSR disintegrated into a number of countries. Each of these new countries has become tremendously dependent on the West and on the United States. Naturally, their position regarding Cuba in international organizations is now different from that which they used to maintain.

These factors must be taken into account to establish the difference between the situation in 1961 and today. Today we must defend our Revolution much more energetically, much more forcefully, because conditions are more difficult today.

At this time, imperialism believes or is acting on the assumption that Cuba will not be able to resist. You know that in addition to this problem, you know that aside from all these problems we had to cope with a number of natural disasters, which were truly unusual and, above all, inopportune.

Last year a heavy drought affected us during the second half of the year, a period still important for cane growth. Yet, as soon as the harvest started, we had persistent rains during the harvest season. These new phenomena were perhaps caused by climatic changes.

We suffered the effects of the storm of the century. You cannot imagine how much suffering it meant for us to watch those hundreds of caballerias of plantains, which were based on microject irrigation systems, washed away by winds of more than 150 km per hour, and sometimes

of up to 200 km per hour. I, personally, witnessed the effects of the storm because I immediately visited those plantations after the storm that washed away two-thirds of the island, from west to east. The storm occurred at a time that was not a cyclone season. Storms usually occur at this time of year, from July to October or November. While cyclones [words indistinct], this was a winter cyclone, with winds blowing in a reverse direction. It was a truly unusual, unprecedented phenomenon.

Thus, the storm of the century, the rains, the drought during the second half of 1992, especially during September, October, and November, the combination of all these factors not only caused a reduction in the amount of cane available but truly made it impossible to mill the harvested cane. The amount of cane left in the fields would have produced 1 million metric tons of sugar.

There are other factors that also came into play, such as certain supplies, the lack of certain parts or tires, despite the enormous effort to obtain them. All of this resulted in a reduction of 2 million metric tons in our sugar production. This entails a loss equivalent to $500 million.

You can imagine what it means to lose $500 million in the middle of a special period, just in terms of the amount of sugar that we were unable to produce. Other factors were added to these. In the past we were producing even larger amounts of sugar. We were producing as much as 8 million metric tons. Yet, the country found itself without herbicides, without fertilizers, and with a considerable shortage of fuel which naturally affected our production, not only so far as cane is concerned.

I was alluding to those factors that exacerbated our problems. The enemy is aware of the difficulties we are experiencing and is hoping that our country will be unable to resist. In addition to all this, this very year of 1993 we suffered that mysterious neuritis epidemic. It became necessary to use great resources and to mobilize dozens of research centers to fight it. It was really a nightmare to see the number of cases rising daily.

Despite our having opened our doors to the international scientific community....[rephrases] We invited international health organizations, research centers of Europe and even of the United States, because it is a neighboring country and because every country should worry about this problem; despite the fact that dozens of research centers and prominent scientists and personalities have participated in analyzing the disease, the cause of the epidemic has not yet been scientifically established.

We may state, however, that the country has faced the disease with determination by securing resources and by conducting clinical tests to see what kind of therapy should be used to fight it. We adopted measures to prevent any possible vitamin deficit that could be influencing the situation in one way or the other. Vitamins, just like medicines, are used to fight many of these neurological problems.

Every measure has been adopted to treat patients across the nation. The number of people diagnosed with the disease rose to a little more than 50,000. This does not mean that 50,000 people have been affected by the disease. We should always consider what is known as hyperdiagnosis; that is, many cases in an epidemic situation are diagnosed as a type of disease while they are really something different.

There were, however, tens of thousands of people affected by the disease. We may state today that our people have won this battle. At a certain point, we were having hundreds of cases daily. Then the time came when many days went by without a single case. So we may state that we have thus far achieved a victory over this disease in the special period and amid the other calamities I mentioned earlier.

This means that our people do not get discouraged, do not become demoralized; they face up to problems, no matter what, courageously and in a dignified fashion. The enemy is aware of all that. The enemy thought Cuba would not be able to resist six months, let alone a year. Yet, nearly four years have elapsed since the dismemberment [desmerengamiento], as I said on previous occasions, of the Socialist Bloc, and we have not experienced any major problem.

We have not stopped strengthening our defenses, we have not stopped preparing for combat, we have not stopped creating a protective system for the people in case of war. We have not neglected the training of our Armed Forces. We have designed a great number of truly ingenious things to ensure our combat preparedness, despite the special period conditions we are experiencing.

We have done all this with the instruments at hand, which are indeed numerous. Our people did not become either demoralized or discouraged in any way, nor did we fail to make the effort required in each case, under each circumstance, for each undertaking. That is the difference between the situation that prevailed in 1961...[corrects himself] rather, I meant 1960, because it was the Bay of Pigs incident that occurred in 1961. I am sorry for this mistake. As I was saying 1961, I saw Sixto [Batista Santana] gesturing at me and I was wondering why. It was 1960, that is why we are celebrating the 33d anniversary. Simple arithmetic would have shown me that I was wrong.

This is the difference between the situation prevailing in 1960—wherever I said 1961, let it be understood that it should be 1960—even though the difference is equally applicable to 1961 because the creation of the CDR began in September 1960 and they were all already in existence by the year 1961. [applause]

The Bay of Pigs incident occurred in 1961 and the October crisis occurred in 1962. We have had a number of occurrences. We have faced all these situations with great courage and heroism. Yet, these are more difficult times, much more difficult times. We must be aware of

this. A greater effort, greater courage, greater heroism, greater intelligence, a more efficient organization, a higher morale, and a more tenacious struggle are required during these times precisely to preserve our fatherland, the Revolution, and the achievements of socialism.

I discussed this topic at length in my 26 July speech: that is, the meaning of the achievements of socialism, that under the current circumstances we could not seek the objectives we had sought in historical times, when the Socialist Bloc and the USSR still existed, when we were not living in an unipolar world, when these brutal changes had not yet taken place in the world. These changes have forced us to adopt a very practical approach and to act with the required intelligence and calm to take measures to address these problems, to do things that we would not have done under normal circumstances.

We were well within our rectification process, we were making progress in many areas, and we were solving extremely important problems....[changes thought] It was indeed a shame for the start of the disintegration of both the Socialist Bloc and the USSR to coincide with our rectification process, at a time when we had already been working for three years in that direction.

We were happy, very happy about our achievements. To cite an example, in the area of house construction alone, we had already developed a construction material industry that had adequate resources to produce materials for building 100,000 new houses annually and for the repair of as many old houses as needed. We had created a tremendous infrastructure in the construction material area alone, not to mention our achievements in the farming sector such as the construction of new hog-raising centers, new poultry centers, new egg-production centers, numerous new livestock plans.

These were part of the food program, which started within the rectification process, even before the special period. Thus, we were doing many important things. You should remember that right here in Guanabacoa, when a childcare center was being dedicated one day... [rephrases] you should recall that program that was instrumental in building 105 childcare centers within two years, those programs for the construction of 24 special schools, those programs for the construction of polyclinics, the resurrection of the minibrigades, and the plans that were still in the making.

One cannot help but feel pain when one thinks about all that we were doing during the rectification process until the occurrence of such disastrous events. I want to state again that we were happy with what we were achieving.

With the advent of the special period, we would characterize this as a rectification process within a special period, in which we are seeking the same objectives and purposes. Now, to adjust these to the special period, we have to rectify a lot of these things, to innovate many things, to fight many problems. Logically, in this situation, many problems would arise. An emboldened counterrevolution, an imperialist power, is harboring illusions about nothing but imposing demands on the Revolution, and about wiping the Cuban Revolution from the face of the earth.

This is why, comrades, we must show many more virtues, far greater courage, a much higher morale, and much greater determination, to address these accrued problems, some of which were provoked by political situations and others by natural calamities. It is because of these compounded problems that we are facing such a difficult situation in 1993. For instance, we have to look at the transportation problems we are confronting today, how the number of bus trips had to be reduced in the capital. We have to consider the efforts that are being made to maintain what we have. We have to come up with new ideas such as the famous train-buses that we have manufactured and will continue to manufacture. Diverse ideas have been implemented in transportation.

We have the problem of the excess of currency which logically had to take place when no one is left unemployed, no one is left without income. If the merciless, so-called shock policies are not implemented, as they are in countries following neoliberalism doctrines, it was logical that there would be an excess of currency, excess of money, and many of the phenomena we are facing today because we are far from being under normal conditions. We are fighting and working under abnormal conditions. All this serves as a medium to encourage and promote acts of vandalism, crimes, theft, etc. Conditions are apropos.

The shortages exist and are very real, are very real [repeats]. We do not have the resources we had 10, five, four years ago when the socialist bloc began to crumble. We no longer have those resources. We are now aware of the shortages we have. We are aware of the hopes of imperialism. We are aware of all the plots, plans, and moves. We are aware of their strategy to divide the country, of using every resource and factor to demoralize and weaken the Revolution because they are surely amazed at the capacity for resistance which under these conditions our people have demonstrated. They are conducting an entire series of plots which we are seeing everyday. You have mentioned diverse steps, events, and circumstances, into which I do not now wish to delve.

I only want to tell you that the Revolution must be more intelligent than imperialism, that the Revolution must be more intelligent than its enemies. The Revolution must be prepared to deal with anything the enemy could do, and understand each of the things they do, why they do it. What is their goal? One of the main objectives is to divide us. This is why it is so important for us to be united, and to keep discipline and cohesion within our ranks.

The imperialist strategy is of course to divide, to promote internal conflicts that they can use as justification for a military intervention in our country. No one knows the disastrous consequences this would bring because we are naturally going to fight, and we are going to fight [applause] beyond limits that anyone could possibly imagine.

We are going to fight against mercenaries, against expeditions, against invasions, whether imperialist or not. Life is teaching them that it is not so easy to seize a country and crush it. I believe that what is happening in Somalia is itself an example of where the limits of imperialism's power lie. We can affirm that we know our people, we know their qualities, and that [Somalia] would be nothing in comparison with what would be encountered here by those who under any pretext may attempt to intervene in our fatherland. This is why I said that many things are at stake here, not only independence, the Revolution, and the achievements of socialism, but the very existence of our country.

Revolutionaries will never resign themselves to becoming again a Yankee colony. They will never resign themselves to having our territory occupied by Yankee or other foreign troops. There is sufficient pride and sufficient heroism among us, and we have a sufficiently high number of revolutionaries to be able to defeat such enemies, using the appropriate means and tactics, should they attempt to seize the country in this way.

They are, however, waging this war to weaken us politically, to demoralize and divide us. This is the strategy followed by imperialism and its agents within the country. In light of each of these maneuvers, we need to promote awareness, a high degree of awareness. We have to think, we have to uncover, and we have to denounce each of these steps and its consequences. We have become aware that one of the weapons they have been using is vandalism, instigation of acts of vandalism. We have become aware that the enemy has been promoting crime, that it has been promoting antisocial actions.

The leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the government, in coordination with all factors, drafted a program to fight crime, vandalism, and activities connected to the counterrevolution, extremely harmful, negative actions because they upset the people, enrage the people, anger the people, cause great damage to the economy, and cause great damage to distribution of products. It therefore became necessary to strike back in an incessant, constant manner to win that struggle. We are already beginning to see the first results of that effort. There is an evident retreat of those elements that were emboldened. This is because if the Revolution truly mobilizes its forces, its colossal forces in an organized fashion, the counterrevolutionary enemy has very few chances to succeed, the imperialist enemy has very few chances to demoralize the Revolution.

This congress is taking place precisely in these crucial times. It has been a shot of combatativeness for our people. It was necessary for the CDR to hoist these flags with all their strength because this is the most massive, most omnipresent organization. Therefore, we can say that without the CDR it would not have been possible to write the history of the Revolution. [applause] When the workers are resting and the factories are halted, the CDR are on their posts night and day, weekdays and weekends, at all hours, at every moment. Everyday the CDR is present in the base, at the core and heart of the people.

This is why the enemy has tried so hard to discredit and fight the CDR because they are aware that it is a formidable, powerful, and befitting organization to wage the fight alongside the people, the PCC, the government, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and the Interior Ministry in the defense of the Revolution. It is true that the CDR has done countless other things of a social nature for years and still do so, and they have to. It is also imperative that they contribute to everything having to do with the economy, but their number one task is the defense of the Revolution. [applause]

You will see how when confronted with difficulties, we will face every problem, material and political problems, with intelligence, serenity, and courage. Today, there is an awareness as never before at the core of the revolutionary forces. The revolutionaries of 1868 were capable of fighting in the midst of the jungle, when not a single electric bulb, nor a light was lit.

The troops of the adversaries were occupying the national territory and under such difficult conditions. In the jungle, our predecessors of the last century were capable of fighting for 10 years. I ask today's revolutionaries: How long will we be capable of fighting, even under the most difficult conditions? [unintelligible crowd response] Ten years? 100 years? 1,000 years. [applause]

This should be our goal. This should be our mindset. This should be our firmness. This should be our trust in our people and their worth, a worth that is extraordinary. What better example than some of the things cited here? What better example than having even further reduced the infant mortality rate? I do not have the exact figures here, but I understand that the infant mortality rate in the previous months was below 10. [unidentified speaker: 9.3] Nine point three nationwide, despite epidemics. What is more extraordinary than having broken in 1992, in the very midst of the special period, the blood donations record? What better example than the goal of surpassing that record this year [applause], a record that would have already been surpassed if it were not for the shortage of supplies from time to time. What better example of a spirit of solidarity, of the human spirit? This is an example our people can be proud of.

Sixto [Batista Santana], it is true that this is not a normal year. It is true that our food indexes have dropped in quality as well as quantity in comparison with the levels we had. In other words, that blood is being donated

despite great shortages of every type, and food shortages. [applause] This is the merit it has.

This gives an idea of the mettle of our people. The youths here were justified in saying that we speak of youths with problems, but that there are hundreds of thousands, millions of youths who are workers, fighters, patriots, and revolutionaries. [applause]

We speak of antisocial elements and there are some. We speak of hookers, and there are some, although no one sponsors them, although no one authorizes them, but these are real, existing phenomena that existed before. This problem has existed throughout the history of the Revolution. The Revolution has fought against prostitution, and there have always been airheads seeking to make prostitution their job. Anyhow, we fulfilled our duty in fighting this phenomenon. Besides this, how many millions of youths, men and women, are honest, patriotic, revolutionary? [applause]

These elements, factors, and antisocial tendencies encouraged by the enemy, encouraged by the adverse and difficult conditions that we are experiencing, should never discourage us. This should never make us lose faith and trust in the people, the masses, the revolutionaries. [applause] We count on these forces, these factors.

I believe that our country is presently writing an unprecedented page in history. History assigned us a task that was not requested by us, but it gave us the special period in a unipolar world under the hegemony of those who want to destroy us, and whose power—as I mentioned earlier—has a limit. That limit can only be set by the courage, combativeness, and heroism of the people in confronting these difficulties, with the presence of mind and dignity with which our country is doing it.

We can affirm that no revolution has faced greater difficulties. Never has any revolution performed greater deeds than the ones being performed by our people right now. I can also affirm that no revolution has ever been as humane as this one; nor has any revolution demonstrated as much solidarity and generosity; nor has any revolution been more pure than this one. The purity of the Revolution is measured precisely in the mindset expressed by our people. The purity of the Revolution is measured by the heroism it is capable of inspiring. The purity of the Revolution is measured in its capacity to resist. For only a Revolution with the traits I mentioned, could fulfill the role the Cuban revolution is presently fulfilling.

I can assure you that the hope many peoples put on the Cuban Revolution is enormous. Their admiration toward Cuba is also enormous. Their hope that we will overcome this is enormous because they know that if imperialism were to crush the Cuban Revolution, it would be a tragedy and a defeat for all mankind. This is why so many people put their hopes in the Revolution. We have personally seen this on our trips. I do not have to speak extensively about our recent trip to Bolivia and how amazed we were by the attitude of that people, their love, respect, and admiration toward Cuba, their feelings of solidarity. It is something truly incredible. It is beyond words.

These people live on an altiplano, at an altitude of hundreds of meters. It is said that they are cold, not very enthusiastic. Seldom have we seen such great enthusiasm and such a wonderful people as we saw in Bolivia. Support and admiration for the Cuban Revolution have grown more than ever among the masses. Therefore, not only do we have a duty to fight for ourselves and our hopes, but also to fight for the hopes of other peoples of the world. Everywhere, in Third World countries as well as in developed countries, we see a growing support, admiration, and respect toward the people of Cuba and solidarity with the Cuban Revolution. [applause]

Of this, we are and must be truly proud. Our enemies will learn a hard lesson if they underestimate us and harbor any illusions, because the Cuban people and Revolution are a very hard-to-chew bone no matter how incredibly difficult the circumstances might be.

If the CDR had not been created on 28 September 1960, the CDR would have to be created today. [applause] If 1960 makes it to the pages of history for being the year when the CDR was created, 1993 will also make it to the pages of history as the year when the CDR was reborn, full of energy and vigor, with more valor, dignity, and more fighting spirit than ever. [applause]

Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win.

Politburo Member Palmero Commends CDR Members

FL2809215793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Thousands of members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] yesterday celebrated the 33d anniversary of the creation of the CDR's. With revolutionary joy, the Cuban people celebrated the occasion and reaffirmed both their support for the gains of the Revolution and their decision to resist and achieve victory at this juncture.

Candido Palmero, first secretary of the party in Havana Province, toured several of the municipalities located in that province and conferred with CDR members of the 41st Zone of (Guiya de Melena). The CDR anniversary was also commemorated in other Havana municipalities, especially in San Nicolas de Bari, which was the most distinguished group last year and which was thus elected to host the appropriate session of the recently concluded Fourth CDR Congress. From the 41st Zone of (Guiya de Melena), Palmero conveyed a congratulatory message to CDR members in the territory.

[Begin Palmero recording] The CDR's are emerging today with the same strength they had on their first day, but with the experience of 33 years. I wish to convey a message of gratitude and respect to all CDR members of

Havana Province and of the entire nation for the courageous position you have mantained during these difficult times of the special period in defending our Revolution. I would like to add that the enemies of the Revolution, the counterrevolutionaries, must be shaking now, both in Havana Province and in the rest of the country, because the great strength of the Revolution rests with the people, with the combatants, with the housewives, with the workers. This is what you are witnessing here today. [end recording]

Castro Addresses First Scientific Hubs Meeting

FL2909003693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has chaired the evening session of the First Scientific Hubs Meeting which began this morning at the Convention Center in Havana. Subjects such as the food program and the contributions of Cuban researchers to the sugar industry were the primary focus of the debates. Fidel spoke of the conditions under which the planting and growing of sugarcane takes place, and the factors that have affected and should be kept in mind when it comes to whether or not to implement a specific planting method.

[Begin recording] In other words, in order to attain a truly high yield, you need irrigation, fertilization, and perhaps the furrow gap that Reinoso [not further identified] mentioned. Now, to attain a cane capable of yielding 80,000 arrobas, undoubtedly you do not need a 1.6 gap. In other words, that gap is too wide, leaves room for too many weeds. Perhaps a narrower gap, without irrigation, just with regular rains, and if there is a shortage of labor, lack of herbicides... [changes thought] perhaps a narrower furrow gap with proper fertilization. I doubt the sugarcane will yield much if it has zero fertilization because the soil becomes naturally depleted of fertilizers. I doubt it would yield much. What I want to stress is that there are a series of factors that should determine the suitability or not of the narrow furrow gap. [end recording]

Fidel spoke of certain examples such as Havana and Cienfuegos and the specific results attained there. Strategies, concepts, higher integration, the implementation of developments, were among the issues debated today by representatives from the 13 scientific hubs of Cuba who met for the first time. They also discussed communication among the hubs and, above all, how to increase collective knowledge and promote quick solutions to national problems. In this case, not everything has been solved. This first meeting is the result of efforts already fulfilled despite difficulties. Cuba is the underdeveloped country with the greatest scientific accomplishments.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro also added:

[Begin recording] This began with the experience in Havana. There was an awareness of the need to promote integration, cooperation among the diverse institutions we were creating. We became aware that isolated work at every center could not continue. Every center was responding to a specific institution such as the Science Academy or universities on which the scientific research centers depended. There was a pigeonhole mentality and a dispersion, you could say, of the research institutions. This is what gave rise to the idea of making an effort to coordinate their work here in Havana because we could not have all these scientific institutions under the control of a single institution. [end recording]

I want to add that a few minutes ago, Fidel showed himself to be very impressed by this event. He also spoke about the essence of productive scientific centers and their role in socialism:

[Begin recording] In this field there is not joint ownership. You may have noticed that in science... [changes thought] This does not mean that one day it might not be fitting to establish a new research center in cooperation with foreigners, but we have truly tried to maintain all these institutions as national resources, and resources of the Cuban society and people. We do not share these resources with foreigners. Not only that, but we have also not done this with many of the most important fields in which we are working. It might happen that we may need to associate with some foreign entity in certain productive, commercial enterprise, particularly to solve the problem of marketing, in which have no experience. [end recording]

Stresses Importance of Efforts

FL2909021193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has described the efforts against the neuritis epidemic that affected Cuba as a most important scientific battle waged in record time. Fidel spoke with participants in the First Scientific Hubs Meeting held in the Convention Center in Havana:

"A tremendous effort was made: 11 million pills a day were distributed. Well, we distributed enough for a consumption of 11 million pills a day. The pill plant worked 24 hours. Fortunately, we had that plant. We brought the raw materials by plane to produce those pills. The fact is that the measures taken, preventative as well as therapeutic measures, thwarted the epidemic. It made it possible to eliminate the epidemic."

Fidel also spoke of the measures implemented and the participation of diverse professionals:

"The epidemic was a very hard test for Cuban science, the hardest it has ever confronted. I can assure you of this. Yet, it came out victorious. The fact that we cannot yet say the final word on the causes does not mean that a great effort has not been made. I do not believe that an effort such as this has ever been made before—ever, anywhere."

Castro also stressed the possibility of obtaining resources from science:

"To overcome the obstacles ahead, to obtain experience as quickly as possible, and to turn science into an essential source of income for the country. Science, or the results of scientific research, might someday be more important to us than sugar or tourism."

Because, he added, science not only helps solve problems, "but it becomes the basic source of income for Cuba."

Tuber-Vegetable Meeting Held

FL2909003793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The second scientific-technical meeting on tubers and vegetables of Havana, which was held at the Liliana Dimitrova Institute in Havana, has ended, with the presentation of incentives to a group of producers outstanding in implementing successful developments. This event unfolded within the sixth meeting of sector producers and researchers; and the results in growing vegetables, potatos, plantains, and other crops were analyzed by four committees.

Delegates to the event visited an experimental area, of which a group of Chinese advisors is in charge. The Chinese are obtaining high yields by applying their own techniques in growing vegetables.

During the second scientific-technical meeting on tubers and vegetables, 32 papers by producers and researchers were analyzed, with a view to quickly applying them in the province's agricultural entities.

GRANMA Publishes Catholic Group's Reply to Bishops

FL2909020393 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The members of the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Meditation and Solidarity Group today replied, in their capacity as Cuban Catholics, to the communique from the bishops of Cuba. The statement is carried in the newspaper GRANMA.

The group points out that at moments so crucial to the survival of our people, the bishops' document gives one the impression that it is talking about a different Cuba. The Catholics of the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Meditation and Solidarity Group highlight the fact that in contrast to the nostalgia of these members of the church hierarchy for a past full of suffering, are the achievements attained by the Revolution.

The group also points out that Cuba is a nation in the process of building, just 90 miles from a declared enemy, and is facing the current setbacks because of changes in the situation: the collapse of the socialist bloc and the renewal of the blockade as a means of drowning the hopes of a society of equality and social justice.

The bishops' message claims to be addressed to the politicians inside and outside Cuba who aspire to real participation in the national political life. In this connection, the Meditation and Solidarity Group wonders if the politicians referred to could possibly be the gentlemen from Alpha 66, the L Commandos, and the [Cuban-American National] Foundation?

The group adds that it appears that the bishops forgot a few considerations, such as the fact that in Cuba it is the population that maintains dialogue. In this connection, they stress the fact that the economic measures necessary because of the difficult period we are going through are neither detrimental to the masses nor based on a neoliberal model, but are instead based on a search for a Cuban solution.

The Oscar Arnulfo Romero Meditation and Solidarity Group has called on the bishops, whom it calls brothers in the service of God and the people, to see not only those who take refuge in the temple, behind the sacristy.

Bishops' Document Condemned

FL2909015193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] In today's edition, the 26 September edition, the paper JUVENTUD REBELDE carries an article entitled, "Questions to the Bishops." In this article, journalist Luis Baez Delgado analyzes and responds to the document issued recently by the nation's 11 bishops.

Baez Delgado says: As if by magic, overnight, the 11 Cuban bishops, without being politicians, as they themselves admit, draw up a political platform. Without being economists, as they themselves acknowledge, they make economic analyses. Without being psychologists, as we hope they do not think themselves to be, they employ psychological terms to buttress the fragile conclusions to which their ostracism has led them.

In their document, the bishops refer to love a total of 82 times. In his article, Baez Delgado asks: Where was the bishops' love during the 37 days that young Rolando Perez Quintosa flailed about, fighting for his life? Where was the bishops' love when those 122 children died as a result of the mysterious hemorrhagic dengue fever? Where was the bishops' love when murderous hands set fire to the (Levantan) Childcare Center? What simple gesture of love did the bishops make when Havana was shaken by the explosion of the La Coubre steamship, or the El Encanto fire? What love did the bishops show the children orphaned at the Bay of Pigs, or the victims of the Escambray groups? Where was the bishops' love when the Cuban people, mournful and shaken, buried a few remains that represented all our compatriots who had been on the Barbados plane?

In another part of his article, Baez Delgado asks: In the name of what justice, or what love, can they ask us for

reconciliation, dialogue, brotherhood with, not that other great mass of Cubans—whom, let it be said in passing, we did not turn into foreigners; rather, who turned themselves into foreigners—but with traitors, murderers, and mercenaries?

After replying with solid arguments to the points on the blockade, and refuting the references to alleged social problems that the bishops make in their document, Baez Delgado concludes by saying that the maneuver by the conference of Catholic bishops of Cuba is a betrayal because they betrayed the faith, and betrayed their Catholic brothers, because they have spoken in their name without consulting them. They have negated their Catholic brothers in an attempt to use them; and, thanks to the position that they are purposely displaying as bishops, they are reducing their Catholic brothers to simple instruments of their premeditated treachery.

The bishops have betrayed the people, because the people of Cuba do not today need shows put on by annexionists of the spirit or quitters by vocation; they need, rather, upright conduct by persons of firm and steadfast character, forged by sacrifice for the sake of progress, sharing the Cuban people's present reality and fate.

Lastly, quoting Marti, Baez Delgado affirms that: The decisive present moments require clearly taking sides, to be either the servant of Spain or of the fatherland's independence, to be either vile or upright.

Our position is clear: We follow the invincible commander of the solitary star. We are in favor of the independence of the fatherland. We are upright people.

UNEAC Fifth Congress Debates Cultural Communication

FL2909004593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] With greater lucidity than excess, but without lacking the passion of controversy, the members of UNEAC's [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists] Radio, Television, and Film Association met Tuesday [28 September] in a plenary session corresponding with the UNEAC's fifth congress.

Politburo member and UNEAC President Abel Prieto called for studying channels, ideas, and realities in depth to successfully carry out cultural work in Cuba today, in the midst of the difficult situation the country is living through.

Within this context, the subject of information as an integral part of culture, and the importance of a veracious propaganda system were discussed. Prieto said that the Cuban people appreciate being spoken to clearly, having the truth told.

Television production was also a main topic for discussion: what is being done, what is no longer being done, and what the real prospects are for offering better television programs.

Robaina Says Guantanamo Soldiers Facing U.S. 'Provocation'

PA2909033293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina has said in Guantanamo that residents of this eastern province are caught in the middle of a foreign policy conflict as they face the provocations of Yankee Marines illegally stationed at a naval base that encroaches on part of the territory of the Caribbean island.

Robaina made this statement at the conclusion of his working visit to Guantanamo with a large delegation of members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Havana. The foreign representatives and their companions visited the headquarters of the Border Brigades, which is tasked with protecting the demarcation line with the U.S. enclave. They were able to evaluate the daily duties of these soldiers, who for years have faced all types of aggression and provocation.

Uruguayan Ambassador Alberto Boss Rubio spoked on behalf of his Latin American counterparts and voiced his wish that this territory, which has been illegally occupied by the United States, be returned soon to its sole owner—namely, the Cuban people. Upon completing their visit to Guantanamo, the Latin American diplomats, led by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, went to the neighboring province of Santiago, where they completed an extensive itinerary that included visits to important health, economic, and historical centers, and they received detailed information about this territory.

Latin American Unionists Meet in Havana

FL2909021993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The Cuban trade union movement supports Fidel's statements regarding the need for political and economic unity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thus said Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation], this afternoon, upon answering questions put to him by a group of union leaders from Latin America about the CTC's international relations. During the meeting, which took place at the Lazaro Pena Union Cadres School in this capital, unionists from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia acknowledged the efforts made by the Cuban state to preserve the attainments of the Cuban people, and especially those of the workers.

Upon mentioning a sole, united, workers federation in Cuba, Ross said that that victory was won 55 years ago, long before the triumph of the Revolution, when the

CTC was formed by the era's workers and leaders, an achievement that will today be defended and preserved.

New PRC Envoy Comments on Investments, Cooperation

FL2809215693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Cuba and the PRC, which is commemorating the 44th anniversary of its foundation, are intensifying their trade. Incidentally, the new PRC ambassador in our country, Xu Yicong, made remarks to reporter Margarita Torres.

[Begin Xu recording] We should feel happy and satisfied because for many years, through a joint effort by both sides, we have maintained a fluid, quite significant level in our trade and economic relations.

China has offered government loans to establish two factories: One factory for electric fans and another for bicycles. The fan factory is already in the production stage and the bicycle factory is in its final mounting stage. I understand that the two countries have also reached an agreement by which China will send a group of experts in pisciculture;that is, in raising freshwater fish.

Prior to my departure, I perceived high interest from various Chinese provinces, enterprises, and corporations about investment prospects here, and seeking cooperation. I am highly optimistic about finding the means for this type of cooperation. [end recording]

Today is also the 33d anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the PRC, which have been marked by firm, loyal principles upheld by the two countries.

Basic Cooperative Production Units Formed

FL2909012393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1943 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The first three Basic Cooperative Production Units for growing sugarcane have been formed in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Las Tunas, and Villa Clara. The Minaz [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] vice ministry for agriculture has announced that these units have been formed at the Manuel Sanguily sugar agroindustrial complex in Pinar del Rio, the Peru complex in Las Tunas, and the Juan Pedro Carbo Servia complex in Villa Clara.

Most of the Basic Cooperative Production Units that will be formed, from now until the beginning of the sugar harvest, at every Minaz sugar enterprise will be set up on the former cane granges, the reponsibilities of which were to supply the mills with raw material.

A Basic Cooperative Production Unit is also going to be created sometime this afternoon in Havana Province on the lands of the Manuel Fajardo Mill in Quivican.

[Radio Reloj Network in Spanish at 1959 GMT on 28 September adds that a Basic Cooperative Production Unit has also been formed on the former Enrique Casals [name as heard] cane grange in Jobabo, Las Tunas Province.]

Atomic Energy Official Addresses Vienna Conference

FL2809130093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Andres Garcia de la Cruz, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, has stated that the current situation in Cuba is stimulating a greater use of nuclear techniques.

Garcia de la Cruz made these remarks at the 37th International Conference on Nuclear Energy in Vienna. He noted that the Cuban parliament recently reaffirmed the significance of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He added that more than 100 Cuban institutions are using nuclear techniques in the areas of health, agriculture, nickel, and oil, among others.

He also reaffirmed Cuba's support for proscription and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, but in keeping with the principle of unconditional respect for the sovereignty of each state.

Criminal, Judicial Action Reported

FL2809130493

[Editorial Report] The following is the only fileworthy report on criminal activity and related judicial actions in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 20 and 27 September.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 20 September reports that citizens Jorge Garcia and Jesus Rodriguez and two accomplices, Luis Rodriguez and Leonardo Quesada, have appeared in court. Garcia and Jesus Rodriguez have been sentenced to 10 and 11 years' imprisonment, respectively, for stealing and slaughtering two oxen from the Arango farm in Arroyo Naranjo Municipality and damaging other properties while committing the crime. The accomplices sold the meat of the first ox on the black market at exorbitant prices. The thieves were caught as they were preparing to slaughter the second. The police presented knives, scales, machetes, and blood-stained clothing and shoes as evidence in the case tried in the Second Criminal Court in Havana.

Bahamas

Mandela: Some Black South Africans Fear Democracy

FL2809163193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1510 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Sept 28, CANA—African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela has

complained that some black South African political parties are afraid of democracy.

Ending a three-day private visit to Nassau Monday, the 75-year-old freedom fighter told students at the College of the Bahamas that six of 26 political parties in his country were opposed to the date of South Africa's first multi-racial elections - April 27, 1994 - while one party decided to remain neutral.

"I can well understand how white political parties would want to oppose the date of election because they are in power - they are enjoying the fat of the land," he said.

"But what I can't understand is that black party ... which is afraid of democracy, which is afraid of an election.

"Unfortunately, we have such parties in our country, but we are speaking to them, to all of them, to join us in building a new South Africa."

Mandela met privately with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham Monday morning, and spoke to a ballroom packed with prominent Bahamians at Government House.

He pledged that the new South Africa would be built on the cornerstones of basic human rights and the collective wisdom of a multi-party system.

Mandela left Nassau for the United States to meet with President Bill Clinton, and leaders from Britain, France and Belgium.

He thanked the Bahamian people for their support in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa.

Barbados

BLP Launches Public Outreach Meetings

FL2809115493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2133 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 27, CANA—The parliamentary opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Sunday night launched a series of island-wide public meetings, with new leader Owen Arthur vowing to work to dispel a perception that the party is elitist and anti-working class.

Arthur, a 43 year old economist who succeeded prominent lawyer Henry Forde as party leader a month ago, also served notice that there had to be "political renewal" within the party if it is to recapture the government at the next general election. "We cannot go forward by standing still," Arthur told supporters at the inaugural meeting in Independence Square, Bridgetown. He said while some of the BLP's tried and tested old guard would be retained, the time had come for "new blood, new ideas, new talent, new ideals, (and) new energy."

Arthur, the BLP's longstanding spokesman on finance until his elevation to the top leadership spot, expressed clear disgust at the repeated charge that the BLP did not like "poor black people". Playing up his own working class background, the new BLP leader said social gains made by poor Barbadians over the past 30 years were attributable to the "pioneering work" done by the BLP and its first leader, Sir Grantley Adams, during the 1950s.

"...I believe ...that when you survey what has gone on in this country over the ...last two or three years in particular, and when you take stock of the devastation of poor people in Barbados, then you must appreciate that the time has come when the Barbados Labour Party must stand up squarely and shout hard and loud for the protection and the advancement of the interests of poor people in this country," he said.

Arthur was referring to a recession which has been hurting the Barbados economy for the past three years, as well as the effects of public spending cuts and tax increases under a government economic stabilization programme. The BLP, under the late Prime Minister Tom Adams and then Bernard St John, last formed the government from 1976 to 1986.

Arthur, who served as junior finance minister during the second and last five year term, said restoring compassion to government would be a priority for the BLP when it returns to office.

Grenada

Unions, Opposition Parties Fight Utility Privatization

FL2809215993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2017 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Sept 28, CANA—The Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC) and opposition political parties here have joined forces to fight the goverment's decision to privatise the Grenada Electricity Services (Grenlec).

The GTUC, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy and its archrival, the socialist Mauloishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) have teamed up with other organisations in a new National Joint Committee on Privatisation (NJCP).

The national party (TNP) of former prime minister, Ben Jones and the New National Party (NNP) of former communications and works minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, are also represented. They plan "a mass demonstration and rally" against the privatisation plan October 15.

"We are concerned about the haste with which the government is doing this. If it is in the interest of the people, then why is there such speed and haste?" Danny Williams, deputy political leader of the New National Party (NNP), asked.

The NJCP's decision on the demonstration came against the backdrop of a notice in the press offering for sale on October 15, 40 to 50 percent of the shares in the multi-million dollar company.

NJCP officials say they are not against the privatisation move, but "the way it is being done" because goverment failed to acknowledge the findings of a survey conducted on the privatisation issue. According to the survey conducted by the National Rural Electrification Commission of Latin America (NORELCA), Grenadians "are willing to buy the company," but analysts say the government wants the cash "upfront."

"The government is anxious to get some money into the system, it wants some projects to get going, so that there could be some employment. Elections are less than two years away and things have to look up soon or the administration will have problems getting back," a senior political analyst here said.

The Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) is among three international bodies expected to bid for Grenlec.

Haiti

Jean-Louis: ACP Initiative Violates Senate Rules

FL2809173293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The arrival of the UN Mission in Haiti will be the main point of the debates in the upper chamber today. This issue was raised by the members of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP]. In the opinion of Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis, this initiative is a simple public relations step that violates the internal rules of the Senate and the procedures required in the matter.

[Begin Jean-Louis recording] Unfortunately, it was not done that way. They preferred to create an uproar [words indistinct] send notes to the radio and the television. We declare that quite unacceptable and we are going to ask tomorrow that the procedures, the institution's regular norms of functioning, be respected so the institution can regain its integrity and its dignity [words indistinct] unity as was the case in the past. [end recording]

ACP Senators Request Extraordinary Session

FL2809173093 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 34.635 27 Sep 93 p 12

[From the "Buzz in the News" column: "Alliance Senators Amazed"]

[Text] In a letter dated 24 September and sent to Senate President [Firmin Jean-Louis], the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] senators say they are amazed that the president of the Senate has not convened the members of this body in extraordinary session on 24 September in order to rule on this decision (Resolution 867 of the Security Council) aimed at jeopardizing the national sovereignty." [no opening quotation marks as published]

The ACP senators asked the Senate president to convene the Senate as a matter of urgency "on Sunday, 26 September at the latest".

Deputy Public Prosecutor Seeks Police Detachment

FL2809171193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Regarding the Evans Paul matter, the deputy public prosecutor of the Port-au-Prince Civil Court has written a letter to the commander of the metropolitan area, [Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Michel Francois]. Ernst Constant has demanded a police detachment that will allow him to do his job and arrest all those who are supposedly opposed to the present resolution.

Let us point out that Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul [also know as K-Plim] communicated to the press documents relating to his legal steps—of course—to rout the bandits who have occupied the Port-au-Prince City Hall and the City Hall Annex [headquarters of a neo-Duvalierist political party called Assembly of Democrats for the Republic since 22 September] on Marie Jeanne Avenue. After sending the letter to the High Command of the Haitian Armed Forces, Mayor Evans Paul sent a letter to the deputy public prosecutor to the Port-au-Prince Civil Court, Ernst Constant, asking him to intervene with the metropolitan area commander in putting a police detachment at the disposal of the City Hall.

Let us point out that the mayor was (?reinstated) in his post by Prime Minister Robert Malval under strong military escort [on 8 September]. Since then, Paul has been unable to go to City Hall because of the armed bandits' threats against him, according to what Mayor Paul told us. The second member of the (?Communal Council) [Joseph Gerard Salomon] is allegedly behind this movement.

For his part, Assistant Mayor Gerald Salomon has rejected any responsibility in this matter, while accusing Paul of trying to provoke a wave of dismissals at the Port-au-Prince City Hall. Some employees have even threatened to do all they can to prevent the return of National Front for Change and Democracy spokesman Paul to his post.

Jamaica

Opposition Leader: 'Tougher Times' Budget Changes

FL2809115693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2149 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 27, CANA—Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Edward Seaga has

warned Jamaicans to expect before year-end, more changes in government's four month-old budget and tougher times.

Seaga's warning follows a recent announcement by Minister Without Portfolio in the Finance Ministry Dr. Omar Davies, that the persistent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar forced an upward adjustment by two billion Jamaican dollars (one Jamaica dollar—approximately 3.70 U.S. cents) of the 40 billion dollar budget. He said the increase would be partly compensated for by the devaluation's effect on loan funds and export earnings.

Speaking at a fund raising dinner for his West Kingston constituency, Seaga said there was evidence of the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP), "not knowing what it was doing or where it was going".

The JLP leader said the original budget was calculated at 22.20 Jamaican dollars to one U.S. dollar, but he received information which showed the two billion dollar adjustment was based on a 24 to one rate.

He said the Jamaican dollar traded last week for as high as 28 to one in the banks, and it would not be unreasonable to speculate it would not be, "long before the budget reaches 44 billion or 45 billion dollars". Seaga said the question of whether a new tax package should be contemplated in order to raise additional money was therefore relevant.

Ω Ford, Union Antiworker Actions Alleged

93P20365F

[Editorial Report] Comment and reporting of recent months in the Mexico City daily LA JORNADA have ommercial opening, labor affairs specialist Rodolfo F. Pena wrotel of the government, Ford Motor Company management, and the national leadership of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM) autoworkers affiliate for excluding the union local during negotiations last spring and this summer on planned labor cutbacks at Ford's Cuautitlan (Mexico State) plant.

Viewing events in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) commercial opening, labor affairs specialist Rodolfo F. Pena wrote in his 5 August column that "Ford, facing a recession that has negatively affected the sale of automobiles produced at the Cuautitlan plant (which supplies the domestic market), has decided to cut production, carry out massive layoffs, and reduced collective contract costs." Pena descibed this as "one way, a somewhat savage way, of achieving competitiveness, which is one of the obcessions of modernization." Pena, a founding member of the Mexican Center for the Human Rights of Workers, established in July 1992 (LA JORNADA 8 Jul 92), observed that while management may have expressed its sympathy for leaders of the "new" trade unionism, who defend the "legitimate" interests of union members while at the same time adjusting to changes in labor relations and production processes, in reality management "does not want those 'new leaders' and prefers the expedient and illegal methods of traditional trade unionism, which works in complicity with [government] labor officials. And this is how we are going to get under way with NAFTA, unless God provides otherwise."

Central to Pena's critique were the abuses he said were committed by management and the union's national leadership against the leadership of Cuautitlan's union local and plant workers in the wake of their objections to negotiation of the work force reduction without their participation. The chronicling of these objections by LA JORNADA, which is noted for its detailed labor reporting, featured numerous reports of criticisms of national autoworkers union head Juan Jose Sosa by the leader of the National Trade Union of Ford Workers local, Paul Bernardo Diaz, and other workers. The 23 May LA JORNADA, for example, cited charges of unjustified withholding by the national committee of payments to the local from the 15 million pesos in dues collected weekly from Cuautitlan workers. Also noted was a national committee cutoff of funds over the preceding month and a half that was said to have left the local without even money for paper. In addition, 100 million pesos collected for recreational purposes were said to have been sequestered by Sosa. Diaz alleged that all these measures were aimed at blocking the local's defense of workers' interests and at controlling the local's funds. He also accused Sosa of keeping all but 500 of the plant's 4,800 workers from attending an assembly called by the local to discuss the negotiations by threatening to include them among the 1,300-1,500 workers originally slated for dismissal under the reduction.

A 4 June assembly called by Sosa to remove the Cuautitlan leader and like-minded members of the local's executive committee was marred by a host of irregularities, according to a 5 June report. The committee's seven members were reportedly barred from attendance while the Ford management allowed national leaders to bring 30 busloads of workers into the plant to assure the assembly's outcome. Diaz alleged that the "800 temporary contract workers they managed to deliver to the assembly had been threatened with dismissal if they refused to attend."

Employing similar threats, Sosa and other CTM officials forced union workers from Goodyear Oxo and other nearby rubber plants to attend the assembly to ensure a favorable outcome for Ford and the national leaders, according to the 5 June report and a 29 July LA JORNADA survey article. In his 5 August commentary, Pena asserted that most of the assembly participants were, in fact, rubber workers. A 6 June report cited Diaz as charging that the company had lent buses to the union to transport intimidated rubber workers as well as autoworkers and that the rubber workers had been given Ford T-shirts to wear at the assembly. Despite these efforts, the 5 June account reported that the assembly planners had only been able to muster 2,000 workers, well short of the quorum needed for a legal assembly.

A 13 June item drew upon the testimony of several dismissed workers who claimed they had been harassed. Among them, Fernando Rivadeneyra, said to be a worker with a "perfect" employment record, told of how he and two others had suffered respiratory problems after working for more than a year in a painting booth with a nonfunctioning ventilation system. Pedro Lopez, an employee since 1967, complained that he had been dismissed after demanding at a workers' assembly that Sosa account for 5 billion pesos in union dues. Another worker, Salvador Sanchez Saldierna, described as a skilled mechanic, was said by the paper to have been demoted and made to sweep floors because he denounced his supervisor for having approved payment of 200 hours of overtime never performed by "Sosa lackeys."

LA JORNADA accounts of the 2-3 August elections to replace the displaced local executive committee charged that the national union put heavy pressure on rank-and-file workers to participate and thereby legitimate the process. A 4 August article said Ford Labor Relations officials Salvador Esqueda, Edmundo Garcia, and Ricardo Gonzalez Neri resorted to taking workers by the arm to the polls and waiting to make sure that they voted. One worker was reportedly surprised by Gonzalez Neri while reading a leaflet entitled "Say No to the Electoral Farce," which had been circulated by a committee supporting the expelled Diaz; Gonzalez Neri

demanded the worker surrender the leaflet and threatened him with dismissal "if I find you reading that kind of material again." Other workers told the newspaper that, coercion notwithstanding, and although they were forced to vote, they voided their ballots by defacing them. One said that rather than cast his ballot he deposited the pro-Diaz leaflet in the ballot box instead; another said that he wrote across his ballot: "Out, dogs! Out opportunists!" So serious was voter abstention, maintained Diaz, that the national committee, after having announced that voting would be limited to one day, was forced to extend it for a second day, because a majority had not voted—despite Sosa's claim that 80 percent of all workers had done so. In its 5 August report on the voting, LA JORNADA noted that Jesus Aguilar had been elected to succeed Diaz with less than 900 votes, prompting Diaz to remark that in the process put together by Ford and Sosa "everything went wrong for them, given that in spite of threats and intimidation the vast majority of the votes were annulled."

Ω 'Political Whilesomeness Test' Rejected

93P20367A

[Editorial Report] In the 15 September Toronto THE GLOBE AND NAIL, business columnist Peter Cook laments that in the forthcoming debate in the U.S. Congress on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) the argument "will be about whether Mexico is morally worthy. Is its government democratic and clean enough? Are its unions independent enough? Does it take its environmental responsibilities seriously enough? Is its record on human rights too abusive?" He goes on to ask: "In short, can Mexico meet a kind of political wholesomeness test designed by the United States. If it cannot, then the verdict is clear. Mexico will be considered, for the purposes of a trade agreement, a pariah with which Washington will not deal."

Cook then extrapolates from the Mexican example. "Mexico sits in the dock for now. But, if trade arrangements are supposed to do impossible things, such as ensure that the environment is clean and democratic values always respected, then there are going to be wider consequences that flow from having this kind of debate about Mexico. One is that trade agreements with the United States, or with other nations that take a similar tack will not be worth negotiating since they will be only nominally concerned with mutual economic interests. The real test for such agreements will be whether the United States considers the applicant country to be politically, environmentally, and socially okay. Given the positive role that free trade has played in the post-Second World War world in raising incomes and improving living standards and reforming political systems for the better, it is extraordinary that it should now be held hostage in this way. The second result is that all trade agreements, starting with NAFTA and spreading to GATT, will start to become unattractive documents for countries that cannot measure up to rich-country standards of behavior."

Cook concludes that "if to sign a trade deal means to subject one's country to a prosecutorial process in which the judge and jury is U.S. public opinion, as interpreted by populists and special interests and cranks like Mr. Perot, then who will want to follow Mexico?"

Presidents of Mexico, EC Commission Discuss Trade Relations

BR2709154093 Brussels EUROPE in English 25 Sep 93

[Unattributed article: "Mexico—Messrs Delors and Salinas Express Intention To Make Existing Accord More Complete; NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement) Will Encourage European Investment in Mexico"; as released by Brussels Textline database]

[Text] Brussels, 24 Sep (AGENCE EUROPE)—As EUROPE mentioned briefly yesterday, the President of Mexico, Mr. Carlos Salinas, has met European Commission President Jacques Delors and Commissioners Hans Van den Broek and Manuel Marin to discuss the outlook for intensifying trade relations between the EC and Mexico. The talks took place in an extremely positive atmosphere which was undisturbed by differences of view, according to spokesmen's comments. To the satisfaction of the Mexican President who had come to Brussels to deliver a political message along these lines, the Commission clearly voiced its will to make the existing agreement more complete, whether through a "future events" clause or other ways to be explored, effective next year. Any adjustments to the new cooperation agreement, which entered into force in November 1991, will be envisaged in the light of certain variables, as follows:

1. The evolution of relations between Mexico and its North American partners in the framework of the NAFTA [North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement] agreement. According to President Delors, the EEC [European Economic Community], Mexico's second largest trade partner, cannot but draw advantages from this agreement, both politically and from the standpoint of the development of Community investment in this country. EC investment developed markedly in 1992, accounting for 30 percent of new investment;

2. Internal changes the Community is in the process of making;

3. Regional integration processes in Latin America, in particular the consolidation of ties between the G3, made up of Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, on regional policy and increasingly on trade cooperation;

4. The political will for closer ties which are clearly of interest to both sides. The next EC/Mexico encounter will take place towards the end of the year, probably in Brussels, on the occasion of the meeting of the new Joint Committee set up by the 1991 agreement.

Mr. Marin Invites the European and Mexican Business World To Take Advantage of the Framework Created by the EC/Mexico Agreement

"For Mexico and for the Community, the philosophy of industrial cooperation consists of providing the initial impulse enabling businesses and market forces to take advantage of the dynamic of our respective economies under optimal conditions", said European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin at the inauguration of the EC/Mexico Business Meeting Point taking place in conjunction with Europalia Mexico 1993 (the Community contributed financing of 1 million Ecus for Europalia's trade and industrial promotion events).

The new cooperation agreement, Mr. Marin went on to say, "gives Mexican and Community businesses a signal of mutual confidence and establishes a framework facilitating closer ties and generating joint ventures and shared interests." It is incumbent upon representatives of the private sector to make good use of the trade opportunities available, he added. Different mechanisms set in place by the Community will assist them in their efforts, for example the ECIP [European CAD integration project] programme which makes it possible for European and Mexican enterprises to obtain financial backing, both for project identification and the creation of joint ventures. Other actions to promote closer ties between the EC and Mexico have already been outlined within the framework of a new agreement, which Mr Marin says is "one of the most complete the Community has signed to date." He mentioned the following examples:

a) The creation of the Institute of European Integration Studies at the "Colegio de Mejico", whose teaching can serve as a reference for regional integration efforts in Latin America; a study grant financed by the Community enables students from the region to attend the institute in Mexico;

b) The EC/Mexico Agri-Industrial Forum which, following its success in March 1993, will be repeated next May; Mr Marin announced that an ambitious multiannual programme of meetings between businesses in a certain number of sectors is being studied;

c) Europalia Mexico 1993, which entails two innovations this year, namely, it will take place in several Member States and not in Belgium alone, and it will include an information and economic promotion programme on the sectors offering the greatest potential from the standpoint of EC/Mexico cooperation.

President Salinas Sees Role for Industry in Mexico

BR2709172893 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 27 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Salinas Sees Role for Netherlands Industry in Mexico"]

[Text] The Hague—Netherlands companies could play an important role in the privatization of Mexican airports and harbors, Mexican President Carlos Salinas said on Sunday evening [26 September] in a discussion with Netherlands and foreign journalists in Amsterdam. Salinas is visiting the Netherlands this week.

Like other countries in Latin America, Mexico is restructuring its economy at top speed. Banks, television stations, telephone companies, mines, airports, and harbors are all eligible for privatization and foreign ownership.

The oil industry is the only branch of industry which will remain in national hands. This important source of income for Mexico will not be privatized under any circumstances, the president said.

Mexico wants to strengthen its relations with the Netherlands and other EC countries. On Monday Salinas will meet Netherlands business leaders.

Big Netherlands banks and multinationals like Akzo, Unilever, Shell, Philips, Stork, and KLM [Royal Dutch Airlines] will be present at the meeting, in addition to Minister of Economic Affairs Andriessen and Secretary of State of Economic Affairs Van Rooy.

Salinas said that EC countries had far easier access to the Mexican market, compared with Mexico's access to EC markets. For example, there were many restrictions on the sale of Mexican beer in Europe, he said. These unfair trading relations must change to the benefit of Mexico.

NAFTA To Benefit Toyota Engine Assembly Plant in Canada

OW2709085593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Nagoya, Sept. 27 KYODO—The Canadian car production subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp. will build an engine assembly plant, starting next spring, Toyota officials said Monday [27 September]. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. of Ontario will invest 30 million Canadian dollars, or about 2.5 billion yen, in the plant, the officials said.

They said the plant is intended to increase the local content ratio in the Canadian car production venture to meet tariff exemption requirements for automobiles under the North American Free Trade Agreement, which is scheduled to take effect in 1994.

It is also designed to deal with a rise in the production cost stemming from the yen's surge on the foreign exchange market, the officials said. The subsidiary currently imports engines from Japan.

Starting in late 1995, the plant is scheduled to annually manufacture 80,000 engines, with 1,600 and 1,800 cc displacements, for Toyota Corolla models.

Salinas: Intensifying European, Pacific Basin Ties

PA2709155993 Mexico City XEQ Canal 9 Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Plenty of News" newscast; live relay by Mexico City XHTV Television Network]

[Text] After his meeting with European Parliament President Egon Klepsch, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that Mexico wants to intensify its relations with European and Pacific Basin countries.

[Begin recording] [Salinas de Gortari] A few minutes ago I heard an expression that has a special meaning in Mexico. They said: We see that Mexicans are placing all of their eggs in one basket. In other words, they know we are interested in diversifying our exports. Not only that, they understand Mexico's traditional foreign policy, which today is receiving an additional boost. We want better commercial relations with our northern neighbors and with Latin America; we also want to intensify our relations with Europe and the Caribbean Basin. Those relations go beyond commercial ties; they also include the political field. Our dialogue with the president and distinguished members of the European Parliament will in fact enable us to strengthen Mexico's political relations with that European [word indistinct] organization.

[Unidentified reporter] The trade balance between the EC and Mexico has dropped; are there clear plans to reverse that trend?

[Salinas de Gortari] EC exports to Mexico have increased, but Mexican exports to Europe have not grown at the same pace. This is partially because Mexico has unilaterally liberalized its economy; now we want to have more access to the European market. The process is yielding encouraging results. From now on, it will depend on our exporters and producers, who must take advantage of the new opportunities resulting from these meetings. [end recording]

Remarks on Russian 'Crisis'

PA2709155293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has made statements on the Russian crisis from Belgium. The president said:

[Begin Salinas recording] We share the desire for the strengthening of democratic institutions in Russia and, at the same time, are observing with great interest that the leaders of industrialized countries have placed emphasis on Russia's stability. [end recording]

Refusal To Join Coffee Association Said Unrelated to NAFTA

PA2809162593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0219 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Sep (EFE)—The Mexican Government's refusal to join the Association of Coffee Producers (APC) and the United States' withdrawal from the International Coffee Organization (OIC) are unrelated to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between those two countries and Canada, sources of this sector said on 27 September.

"The U.S. withdrawal from the OIC could adversely affect the price of coffee and thus the depressed world coffee industry," a source from the Agriculture Secretariat, who requested anonymity, said.

Concerning Mexico's refusal to join the APC, which was reaffirmed on 23 September, the source added that the Mexican Government opposes the establishment of blocs for foreign policy reasons. "Thus, Mexico, which is also a petroleum producer, cannot join OPEC as a member either, and in both cases it attends meetings as an observer country," the source said. "With or without NAFTA, the United States and Canada would continue to import coffee and Mexico cannot meet their demand anyway," he added. NAFTA could be in effect in January 1994 if the "legislative branches of the United States and Mexico ratify the agreement, as Canada already did."

The international coffee trade is governed by a free market, since 1989 when quotas within the international coffee agreement disappeared. The United States is the world's largest consumer followed by European countries and Japan, and Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, and Mexico are the largest producers.

The United States' withdrawal from the OIC is being analyzed today by delegates of that organization, which consists of consumers and producers and is headquartered in London.

Coffee prices, which are at an "acceptable level" at more than $70 per 100 pounds, according to the source, could drop, because the international market is in disarray.

Costa Rica

Government Regrets U.S. Withdrawal From OIC

PA2809170993 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "Radio Reloj" newscast]

[Text] Costa Rica has expressed regret over the U.S. decision to withdraw from the international coffee pact. Coffee-producing countries had noted the decision made by a consumer country as important as the United States to withdraw from the OIC [International Coffee Organization] a long time ago. The obligation of the coffee-producing countries is to take precautions and avoid a more severe crisis, the INCAFE [National Coffee Institute] executive director has stated.

For INCAFE Executive Director Guillermo Canet, the U.S. decision to withdraw from the coffee agreement will have a great impact on the OIC, as this country is the biggest consumer and member of that organization. The OIC, which continues to program its works for an additional year, from 1 October 1993 to 30 September 1994, will be negatively affected by the United States' departure, as it will be an important loss, Canet has said.

Coffee-producing countries had noted coffee consumers' opposition. According to Canet, when the producing countries started negotiations with the consumers a few days ago, they noticed that they were not reaching agreements with those nations, despite efforts to do so. He recalled that the OIC had observed that the agreements were increasingly negative for coffee-producing countries. This is how, in March 1993, there was a total failure of the talks, and that is why they joined efforts to do something on their own. That is why, Canet said, the OIC was established and the agreement was signed last week. The coffee-producing countries also agreed to withhold coffee to improve prices, which have been very low in the past years.

The producing countries had an obligation to defend the coffee market. Canet said that it was an obligation of the coffee-producing countries to do something for the product, and he said that this effort has to be made due to the failure in reaching an agreement in the talks. He mentioned that what they are trying to achieve is to get fair prices for producers and consumers, since at no time did they mean to create a cartel. He said that the price of coffee will drop significantly in the coming days due to the U.S. decision to leave the OIC's international pact. He added that the loss is important but clearly stated that the institution will continue to be operational, as the coffee-producing countries decided to continue in the OIC.

The OIC will continue its work. The OIC, which was established to save the product's activity, will continue to work and will hold periodic meetings in Brazil, where the headquarters is located. At those meetings, they will establish guidelines to determine what is to be done and changed in regard to the coffee market in the future, Canet stated. Canet said the first meeting will probably be held in a month and that, at this meeting, they will review the system of withholding the export quota and its affect on the price of coffee.

Vice President on Withdrawal

PA2809164793 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Report by William Cespedes from the Presidential Palace; from the "Radio Reloj" newscast]

[Text] Second Vice President Arnoldo Lopez Echandi considers that the United States' withdrawal from the International Coffee Organization [OIC] will in no way undermine the new coffee-producing and exporters association. Over the past years, the international price of this commodity has been confronting serious decreases.

According to Vice President Lopez, the OIC has not been operating fully for the past four years, and efforts to revitalize its operations have been unproductive, mainly because consumer countries have blocked any attempts to resolve a situation they themselves created.

[Begin Lopez recording, in progress] ....it decides to withdraw from the OIC. I believe that this decision only serves to confirm the fact that the OIC has not been operating effectively during the past four years.

In all sincerity, the U.S. decision to withdraw has not taken the producing countries by surprise. We would have preferred for the OIC to continue as a statistics-gathering forum or a coffee market evaluation and analysis forum. Unfortunately, the thesis to prolong the organization's life for an additional year will not progress.

The United States' withdrawal will probably represent the definite death blow to this organization, but I do not believe and am quite sure that it will not have any practical implications, because as you well know the organization's economic clauses were suspended four years ago. In addition, the OIC did not exert any influence on the market, because it in no way controlled supply.

I am sorry this has occurred, but I believe that for practical purposes the decision will have no affect on the coffee market. I do believe that one thing it does confirm is something the producing countries always suspected; that is, there was no willigness to negotiate a new international coffee agreement. Basic commodity agreements are not in vogue throughout the world, and the U.S. withdrawal merely confirms this fact. [end recording]

On the other hand, Lopez said that the constitutive meeting of the Association of Coffee Producing and Exporting Countries (APPC) that took place last week in Brasilia was a total success. Costa Rica was elected one of the four vice presidents of the new organization,

which is expected to establish a 20-percent withholding of world production. The objective of this withholding measure is to force cuts in the international coffee reserves held by consumer countries by more than 10 million sacks. It is expected that this fall in international coffee reserves will in turn prompt an increase in coffee's international market price.

El Salvador

Cristiani Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2809231293 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1930 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Speech by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Mr. President; Mr. Secretary General; members of this General Assembly:

We welcome with great satisfaction your unanimous election to preside over the work during the 48th General Assembly ordinary session, especially because you, Mr. President, are an honorable representative of a brother country of our region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Your inaugural speech, in which you gave us your vision of the world, is rich in concepts and insights on the international situation, exhorting us to become committed in promoting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter to achieve a better world, encouraging and prompting us to reflect on the responsibilities that exist in light of the overall challenges our peoples are facing.

It reveals your sensibility and wisdom which, linked to your political and diplomatic experience in multilateral matters, will constitute a guarantee to advance in a positive fashion in the efforts to change to achieve our organization's objectives. We want to go on record as thanking your predecessor, Mr. (Stoyan Ganeb), the former Bulgarian foreign minister, for the successful way he conducted the work of the 47th session, in particular for his efforts in restructuring and rehabilitating the UN system. In addition, we join the expressions of recognition conveyed to Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for his positive dedication and performance at our organization's helm. We renew our support and confidence in his difficult task of seeking international peace and security. Mr. President, we come for the fifth consecutive year before this top world forum. It is at this elevated tribune that we have been privileged to give a yearly report on the advance of a process that, although occurring in a small developing country, represents one of the most dynamic, complex, and exemplary pacification efforts in contemporary history. In 1989, when we came for the first time to address the representatives of the world from this very podium, the Salvadoran case was another knot in the intricate network of problems left by the infamous Cold War as it unexpectedly disappeared.

A few months earlier, we had begun our term in office with a major purpose rooted in our innermost conscience; that is, to make every effort humanly possible to find a solution to the Salvadoran conflict through political means. We told the Salvadoran people so in the form of a solemn promise the first day of our administration. We reaffirmed it before the United Nations in September of that crucial year of 1989, barely a few weeks before the people watched the almost unbelievable dissolution of one of the major ideological and military powers of the world, paving the way for a new phase, albeit a phase difficult for all and yet one that offered promise and committed all of us. The peace process in El Salvador—if we want to sincerely interpret our country's history—has been a search that through different manifestations has always been present in the lives of Salvadorans from the birth of our nation. Our peace process is not merely the expression of the need to find a sensible and reasonable ending to an unfair and painful war. In El Salvador, as in so many countries with a historical evolution similar to ours, peace is the generic name for very old needs and aspirations, such as democracy, institutional existence, rule of law, and existence of political freedoms and human rights, in one word, such as civilization that overcomes savagery. This situation made us understand from the start of our work for peace that this labor had to be solid and persevering, because otherwise it would merely be another effort like so many others in our past that did not go beyond superficial measures without laying the true foundations for the country's political, social, and economic modernization.

For us, and this is the dimension that has made possible the successful evolution of our process, peace is synonymous with democracy. It fills Salvadorans with satisfaction to hear from the vantage points of different ideological and political thinking that our peace process is regarded as exemplary.

Before this forum of nations, we would like to mention some of the factors that in our opinion have made the exemplary nature of the process possible. First, we feel that the solution reached corresponds appropriately to the nature of the conflict. Because it was a conflict with social and historic roots, the detonating cause was eminently political, linked to the shortcomings and inoperativeness of the traditional political system in El Salvador and to the political and ideological confrontation of the major powers.

The solution had to be political, and it was, without winners or losers, and it had to refer to the creation of a new scenario so that a system of pluralist participation would function in it. The peace accord is a blueprint of commitments to expand, develop, and guarantee democracy in El Salvador. That is what we needed. That is why it has worked irreversibly, despite temporary problems that are merely incidents along the way.

Second, the conflict drained the resources of violent confrontation in the country. The drain of the war and the stimulus of the democratizing effort have generated

the conditions leading to the emergence in El Salvador of a culture of tolerance, understanding, and reconciliation. In a word: a culture of peace. That concept is not just emerging in El Salvador but also constitutes a growing concern in the world. We, with UNESCO's support, are promoting a broad project of a culture of peace. To that end, we are requesting the decisive support from the international community.

Without a culture of peace that contributes to eliminating the forever lurking remnants of the culture of violence, it will not be possible to turn into an institution the new moral order our times demand, a new moral order among men and nations as the foundation of that new world order of coexistence, competitive and yet respectful and harmonious, that looms ahead as a possibility that can be achieved as we move into the next millennium.

Third, we must acknowledge that the Salvadoran process has been permanently and effectively supported by the international community represented by the UN Security Council and the secretary general of this international organization, by a group of countries one way or another very linked to the Salvadoran situation, as well as by a general interest to observe the mechanisms and methods used to solve a conflict such as the one that shook El Salvador for such a long time.

We have no doubt whatsoever that without this international framework the solution to the Salvadoran drama would have been more difficult and complicated. El Salvador is a living example of how the transition of a world dominated by confrontative bipolarity to another determined by the rationality of specific situations is taking place. We have no doubt when we say that the world process is changing gears from that of abusive and merciless ideolization to pragmatic and ordered rationalization.

The world has always been plagued by numerous problems and conflicts, but for a long time the internal drama seemed to be more and more a confrontation between ideologies. That distortion, made worse by real problems, prevented any solution to these problems. It is true that after the conclusion of the cold war, some very painful and cruel situations have broken out, such as the one occurring in the former Yugoslavia. It is just that ideological, strategic, and geopolitical bipolarity encouraged man-made conflicts and also artificially undermined others.

Reality, without any doubt, is a better adviser than any fiction the ideologists may dream up; moreover, we Salvadorans do not discuss these issues with the same calmness as the analysts or with the scientific patience of the academicians. We talk about war, because we went through one. We discuss world ideological confrontation because, as we now know, El Salvador constituted one of its most intense conflict grounds. In addition, we speak of peace, because we are building it starting with an understanding that is a significant, institutional agreement conceived and structured in such a way as to strengthen democracy in El Salvador and the entire Central American region.

We have already stated what this peace represents to us. We would now like to emphasize that we are fully aware that peace is a process, a process that cannot be static but must constantly evolve. In this respect, El Salvador is also a good example. For a long time now, countries such as ours have been caught up in the struggle between authoritarian immobility and revolutionary radicalism. This moment of history is very special, because it is teaching all of us about the preeminence of a very old but valuable concept: evolution.

The philosopher [name indistinct] once said that nothing changes. What has always been a historic riddle is a natural rhythm of that change. There still might be numerous uncertainties, and in the healthy forlornness of magical formulas that have tormented the world during the current century, maybe we are finally on the way to understanding that the natural rhythm of change is summarized in the classical formula of slowly but surely.

When evolution overtakes leadership there is no need to be in a haste. The rhythm of transformations occurs in an irresistible manner. We see it in international, political, economic changes taking place throughout the world. A near spontaneous reordering is occurring now that many straitjackets have been released. This same reordering has left a very important issue in the open: the real problems.

Because the East-West confrontation is over now, almost no one talks about the North-South conflict or alternate alignments. The grave problems of inequality, critical poverty, and dependence, have not been resolved. They are still there and are a challenge for the new order being created on a more rational and reasonable basis.

Mr. Chairman, amid this new setting, the United Nations plays a role that not too long ago was unthinkable. The great task of conducting international peace efforts cannot be in the hands of one single country, not even of a privileged group of countries. It requires the participation, understanding, and cooperation of all nations. It also needs an instrument to make peace processes viable and provide support and follow up assistance. That instrument is this organization, and the special dimension of its work has multiplied and has acquired more importance in recent years.

El Salvador was honored to be one of the first countries to benefit by the scheme of UN peace efforts. The work consisting of active intermediation followed by active verification, unprecedented actions in international law, that the United Nations has been implementing in El Salvador are not theoretical ideas but an exercise derived from needs consonant with reality. The dynamics of the Salvadoran process have been modeling the UN role in our country. Salvadorans have learned much from this

close relation with the United Nations. By the same token, we are sure that the United Nations also learned very important lessons from its participation—which continues today—in attaining, preserving, and developing peace in El Salvador. Our concept of the United Nations has been enriched by sharing with this international organization the responsibility of carrying forward the peace process in El Salvador.

From that purview, we understand with more clarity that the United Nations is also undergoing changes. Its original configuration, which was based on the situation that prevailed after World War II, must be adjusted to conform to new realities. UN organizations such as the Security Council and even the General Secretariat now have new roles and responsibilities demanding changes. The concept of the UN Security Council's configuration and the mechanism of veto within that council—which resulted from the deep mutual distrust that prevailed in post war years—must be thoroughly reviewed to adjust them to a new era of cooperation and exchange. The General Secretariat's scope of action should also be reviewed, as today it must carry out more executive work than in the past. All those changes are current and unavoidable challenges to be assumed by this organization to which we owe so much, and which we want to make stronger and more efficient.

There is space for all in the United Nations. In our previous speeches before this forum, we have stressed the importance of the principle of universality. We realize that this principle in no way should be a form of intervention in internal affairs of states. At the same time we believe, however, that there are realities that cannot be ignored. In that sense, we have supported the study of exceptional situations, based on past experience, on parallel representativeness of divided nations in the United Nations. This subject should be resolved within the framework of understanding and openness that characterizes international relations today.

Mr. Chairman, for the first time in its history, El Salvador is immersed in the vigorous current of modernization, a process in which all countries are interested these days. Our contribution cannot be material, because we lack resources and wealth. We have, however, earned a quality. We can speak with the moral force of people who are getting up from their own rubble with the unexpected serenity that prolonged suffering gives. If there is something to which we Salvadorans can attest, it is that it is possible to pass from irrationality to the conscious construction of historical rationality.

In our long path, we need political, moral, and financial support of the international community, in accordance with the resolution approved by the General Assembly in 1992 for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador. It is necessary to reincorporate former combatants to institutional and productive life through programs such as the transfer of land for farming.

In the same manner, many new institutions are being created. An example of this is the National Civil Police, one of the most ambitious public security experiments in the world. We need timely technical and economic support to build the structures of peace more quickly. We want to erase from our minds the discouraging evidence that it is easier to get financial assistance for war than for peace. The culture of peace, which is also a world challenge, should also be reflected in that fundamental change of priorities.

Mr. President, we are here for the last time, as our presidential mandate ends on 1 June 1994. It has been a great honor to have come here punctually every year to report on the advancement of a process that interests El Salvador very much and that also interests Central America and the international community due to its positive affects on the region's stability.

The country we are talking about is very different from the one we discussed in 1989. The important change has been positive and auspicious. The merit is not ours. We have worked willingly. The merit belongs to a people who made many sacrifices from remote times in history and have won a place of honor in the setting of changes we see arise as the century ends.

All the political and social forces of El Salvador have worked for the new country to start to take shape. The friendly countries that are closer to us due to history and proximity can give testimony of this. We have made a successful effort to order the economy, and the bases are set for a comprehensive democracy—political, economical, social, and cultural—to continue to make constructive advances.

Mr. President, El Salvador expresses its concern for the continuation of conflicts that devastate several areas in the world. The dramatic cases of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia deeply touch us. We have trust, however, in the force of reason, as it always finds ways to achieve even the most difficult objectives.

There is also excellent news, such as the extraordinary agreement of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, whose importance has pleasantly shaken the universal conscience. We also see how spaces for rationality have opened in South Africa and how, although with difficulty, the situation in Haiti is clearing up. All this comforts us and reminds us that we are in times of big wonders. The world is liberating itself from many oppressive ghosts, and this gives us the energy to believe in ourselves and in the potentials of the international system.

Mr. President, if we have to make a list of gratitude for the contribution to peace in El Salvador, we would always end up short. We have to mention, however, the extraordinary work done by both the previous secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as the current secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, as well as his excellent group of officials and advisers without whose participation and support it would have been difficult to

reach the goal of getting El Salvador on the route to authentic peace. The Security Council has always been very attentive to our process, and its active equanimity is also worthy of our biggest praise.

In the name of El Salvador, thank you all. El Salvador is a working example, and we want to continue to be an example of stability, respect for human rights, national concord, and progress. To this end, we request the world's attention and support, and above all we ask for God's enlightenment for El Salavdor, the United Nations, and all the men and women of good will on this earth, which is a common patrimony and has to be shared by humanity.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. [applause]

Minister on U.S. Withdrawal From Coffee Pact

PA2809174893 Panama City ACAN-EFE in Spanish 2338 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—On 27 September, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mauricio Cabrales said that the U.S. decision to withdraw from the International Coffee Organization (OIC) should serve to strengthen the newly created Organization of Coffee-Producing Countries [Organizacion de Paises Productores de Cafe—OPPC].

Cabrales, who told reporters that he was not aware of the official reason for the U.S. withdrawal, said "the OIC had been working for over 35 years, protecting consumers and trying to protect producers, and that is very difficult to achieve." He added, "that is why producers made the decision now and created their own organization in Brazil to defend their interests."

The official said "the newly created organization must not be disbanded; quite the contrary, I think it must be strengthened, as all the international organizations dealing with coffee, owing to the importance it has for many countries of the world."

In addition, Salvadoran Coffee Council President Ruben Pineda, talking to ACAN-EFE today, expressed regret over Washington's decision to withdraw from the OIC starting 30 September. The United States contributed $800 million a year toward maintaining the organization. Pineda expressed hope that "this measure does not come as a reprisal for the creation of the organization of coffee-producing countries" and added that Washington "has decided to accelerate its withdrawal from the OIC although it had planned to do so in 1994."

He added that the real impact of the U.S. withdrawal "could be measured based on the implementation of the 20-percent retention of the world's coffee production" on 1 October. Pineda said that the announcement alone of the OPPC creation and the retention of 20 percent of the coffee production to help boost prices has kept the price of the quintal at approximately $80.

Guatemala

De Leon Presents Referendum Proposal

PA2809235393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio today asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] to call a referendum on the resignation of the deputies and the Supreme Court justices. During a visit to the TSE offices Monday afternoon, De Leon Carpio delivered the document in which he proposes two questions for the referendum. At approximately 1630, the president personally carried the document to the TSE magistrates, walking the almost 400 meters between the Presidential Palace and the TSE.

These scenes were filmed when the president walked across the plaza in front of San Sebastian Church and was about to cross Second Street on Zone 2. He then walked along Second Avenue to the northern limit of Zone 2. Pedestrians noticed the presidential retinue and some of them approached the president to greet him.

De Leon Carpio's decision to request a referendum had been announced by the president himself Sunday evening—a month after he officially forewarned he would resort to this constitutional mechanism in the event that Congress and the Supreme Court refused to purge themselves [auto depuracion]. With the announcement of a referendum, De Leon Carpio put a new twist on the institutional crisis—a crisis that is several months old and involves the purge and reorganization of state branches.

TSE President Fernando Bonilla and other magistrates received De Leon Carpio when he visited the top electoral organization. After analyzing the circumstances underlying the country's political and institutional situation, De Leon Carpio read the eight points of his proposal for the referendum:

[Begin recording] [De Leon, in progress] ...incidents that began to occur in this country on 25 May marked a basic change in Guatemala's political and institutional life.

2. The disruption and subsequent restoration of the constitutional order forced the Guatemalan people, who are sole owners of their sovereignty, to exercise the right to legitimate resistance, as well as to protect and defend the rights and guarantees prescribed in the political Constitution.

3. As a result of the incidents in question, and in an effort to restore constitutional order to reinstall Congress, the political parties agreed, formally and in writing, to purge the institution.

4. The deputies, in view of the Constitutionality Court's consulted opinion on the possibility of restricting or shortening the current constitutional term for which they were elected, have focused the discussion of the agenda

on whether the deputies should resign directly and voluntarily, resign through an agreement, or apply a self-purge. This comprises a particularly important political decision, which, when it failed to materialize, provoked a crisis in the operations of the Legislative Branch—a crisis that harms the state's interests.

5. The Congress' virtual inactivity severely harms legislative work, as well as the country's democratic process, stability, and institutionality, and it impacts on state structures.

6. The Guatemalan people in several ways have demanded that the Supreme Court of Justice be purged as a means of combating corruption and impunity in the country.

7. Repeated demands by several sectors and institutions are urging the deputies and the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates to resign voluntarily—a resignation that involves a particularly important political decision—as a specific means of resolving the problem represented by the purging of these institutions. Also, the deputies' and magistrates' refusal to comply, even though the deputies have made a public and legislative commitment, constitutes a serious institutional crisis, which requires a solution through consultation.

8. For his part, the president of the Republic, in his condition as head of state and as representative of national unity and the Guatemalan people's interests, whose duties include compliance with and enforcement of the Constitution and the law, maintaining the defense and security of the nation, preserving public order and the country's dignity, and exercising his legitimate right, calls on all citizens to vote in a referendum under the current situation.

This political decision was announced and amply explained to the people of Guatemala in a public message broadcast yesterday. I herewith attach the text of this message. The message emphasizes that, parallel to the call, I will be presenting a bill for constitutional reforms which must be considered part of this reorganization in order that we not only have a change of personnel, but that we also advance necessary changes in state organizations.

Mr. President and Messrs. Magistrates: In light of what I have already stated, and based on Articles 1, 2, 28, 45, 137, 141, 152, 154, 173, 182, and 183, as well as on Paragraphs A, B, E, and N of the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, with all due respect, I request that:

1. The TSE call a referendum to enable the citizens to decide on the political position of the undersigned when he requested that the titular deputies of the Congress of the Republic and the titular magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice resign.

2. The referendum should include the following concrete questions to the citizens:

a) Do you support the political decision of the president of the Republic when he requested that the titular deputies of the Congress of the Republic resign irrevocably? Yes or No.

b) Do you support the political decision of the president of the Republic when he requested that the titular magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice resign irrevocably? Yes or No.

On the basis of the above-mentioned statements, I ask the president of this high tribunal to proceed to call the people to a referendum and that it be held as soon as possible because of the circumstances posed by this institutional crisis and in the best interest of the people of Guatemala.

[Unidentified reporter] After receiving President de Leon Carpio's request to call a referendum, the TSE will immediately begin analyzing the request, TSE President Fernando Bonilla indicated.

[Bonilla] The analysis of the document submitted by the president will begin now, and the TSE will issue at the opportune time the corresponding resolution, which will be based on law.

[Reporter] Does the TSE have the resources needed to hold this referendum?

[Bonilla] The TSE has the resources, and there also is a law that allows the TSE, in principle, to obtain resources directly from the Executive Branch, if its resources are not enough.

[Reporter] When will the decision be known?

[Bonilla] According to the Constitution, this is a political request, and Article 37 of the Constitution states that a ruling on a political request must be handed down in an eight-day term—that is, within an eight-day period, not necessarily in eight days.

[Reporter] How much money do you need if you accept the referendum?

[Bonilla] A tentative budget—and it is tentative—prepared by the TSE, when considering this possibility, calls for 15 million quetzales.

[Reporter] Does the TSE have that much?

[Bonilla] No, it does not. Supposing this much money is needed, we would have to find means within the law to obtain it.

[Reporter] Can the questions proposed by the president to be included in the referendum be changed, or must they be the ones he has proposed?

[Bonilla] The initiative of a referendum is up to the president and, therefore, so are the questions.

[Reporter] A group of deputies said they would challenge the president's request.

[Bonilla] We have only received the request, and, therefore, a challenge to something that is not officially known would make no sense.

[Reporter] In view of the questions by the so-called Great Congressional Group [Gran Grupo Parlamentario] on the possible unconstitutionality of the referendum, President de Leon was asked about future challenges during a news conference he held minutes after filing his request before the TSE.

[De Leon] This is something that is not up to a deputy, or even a citizen, to judge. This is what the appropriate authorities are there for. At any rate, they will be the ones to issue a ruling on the matter. For a citizen or deputy to say this is unconstitutional... [pauses] I do not think one of the duties of a deputy is to judge whether or not an action is unconstitutional. I think it is good for the legislative branch to speak out even if it is on this.

[Reporter] The Group of 60 [Grupo de los 60; not further identified] has said it may appeal to the Constitutionality Court. What do you think about this, Mr. President?

[De Leon] I think it is very good. In this historic period in which we in Guatemala are living, it is good to appeal to the authorities and to choose legal paths and democratic (?procedures). If they want to challenge an action, or if someone does not agree with something, the normal, logical, reasonable, and legal thing to do is to appeal to the authorities. Therefore, I think this is very good. We will respect, of course... [pauses] The president is a man who respects court rulings, and, therefore, if someone is entitled to do this, let him make use of that right, although...

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. President, is it true that, during this morning's dialogue, pressure was exerted on you to not present the referendum to the TSE?

[De Leon] No, that is not true. First of all, the only pressure the president of the Republic tolerates is the blood pressure he sometimes suffers because of his work. He does not tolerate any domestic or international pressures whatsoever. Therefore, that is not true. Moreover, I have described the meeting as being very positive because the deputies who represent a parliamentary group discussed various possibilities, and I had a very positive view of their desire to implement positive actions, including constitutional reforms. For my part, I explained to them the reasons why, heeding a popular mandate, I had to take this step, which was to come to the TSE and request that a referendum be called. Therefore, it was a very positive meeting. This is how I described it, and this is how it was described by the other participants.

I believe this is a time for dialogue and decisionmaking in Guatemala. As president I listened to the deputies and, in the end, made a state decision. Nevertheless, all of the participants at the meeting should be pleased that we were able to exchange views and to consider the possibility of appealing for constitutional reforms, which is not incompatible with the request I filed today, in which this was mentioned. Along with this action, I will be presenting bills on Guatemalan legislative reforms, specifically the Electoral Law, Political Parties Law, the Congressional Internal System Law and, primarily, the reforms to the Guatemalan political Constitution, as I said earlier.

I must reiterate that it was not a meeting characterized by pressures of any sort. On the contrary, it was a very positive meeting at which I listened to the deputies' arguments. I believe the steps they are attempting to implement may prove very positive because, as I said this afternoon, it is not only a matter of replacing people, but also of reorganizing the branches of state. The Guatemalan state must be reorganized to restore the faith and credibility which the Guatemalan people have lost in certain institutions.

I wish to take advantage of this occasion to say that the actions of the president of the Republic are not intended in any way whatsoever—I believe the letter and the manner in which the questions are formulated prove this—to weaken or wipe out the political parties. On the contrary, his actions are aimed at strengthening the political party system and thereby strengthening democracy. [end recording]

Government Coordinator, Mediator Disagree on Peace Forum

PA2909033193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 24 Sep 93 p 4

[Report by Carlos Castanaza Rosales]

[Text] The first serious disagreement between Hector Rosada Granados, coordinator of the Government Peace Commission, and Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, the conciliator, became evident yesterday following Rosada's remarks on the Permanent Peace Forum scheduled to be held in Guatemala City.

Quezada Toruno said on 21 September that he has not officially agreed to organize the forum because, "it is evident that I cannot agree to participate in the process if this initiative originates within one of the parties only."

Nevertheless, Rosada said he disagreed with Quezada Toruno, although this had not always been the case, "because I am not going to request permission from the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] to establish a Permanent Peace Forum."

He added: "I do not think we have to negotiate this decision with the URNG because the government is sufficiently sovereign, legitimate, representative, and legal, making it possible for the society to reach a great national consensus through rapprochements and agreements."

Rosada, who said he admires and respects Quezada Toruno, said this decision is not up to the government or the rebels, nor is this the way the forum operates. He recalled that since 8 July the government has said the forum "should be organized by him. He also said that, in addition to not being disloyal, his remarks regarding Quezada's proposal only intended to show he was willing to participate in the forum and not necessarily that the government had guaranteed his participation. He said that, no matter what, the forum members should choose their own coordinator and that "the URNG vote, as one more sector of the society, could decide the election."

In addition, Rosada reported that a copy of the peace plan was delivered to President de Leon yesterday to be studied. This morning, both the commission members and De Leon will discuss the last details of the document at the Presidency. Rosada said that, after polishing up the document, De Leon will make it public in Guatemala, maybe this afternoon or between Saturday and Sunday.

Nicaragua

UNO Announces Suspension of Bilateral Talks

PA2909012093 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2251 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Duilio Baltodano, the coordinator of the Political Council of the National Opposition Union [UNO], has told the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast that the bilateral dialogue has been temporarily suspended.

[Begin Baltodano recording] This happened because of the relations between the government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which have always been very amiable. Of course, the statements by Former President Commander Daniel Ortega have only hampered relations between Dona Violeta's administration and the FSLN. Now, we must realize that this relationship has always been characterized by harmony, and I would not be surprised if we were able to overcome this incident very quickly. This is why we should not take Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's statements literally, because we have heard worse, and then, as we Nicaraguans say, we have seen them eating from the same plate.

I also would like to report that relations... [corrects himself] no, rather, the bilateral UNO-government talks currently being held at the Foreign Ministry, have been suspended following the departure of three government ministers who were part of the government delegation. UNO also removed five of its commission members who had been tasked with representing the UNO Political Council at the meetings. [Words indistinct] this type of relationship between UNO and the government, the UNO Political Council, and its ten party representatives, would have to go to the next dialogue meeting with Mrs. Chamorro's government. [end recording]

Presidency Requests Clarification on UNO Letter

PA2909012893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Letter from Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo to the UNO Political Council, issued in Managua on 28 September; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] National Opposition Union [UNO] Political Council, attention National Coordinator Duilio Baltodano:

Gentlemen:

Following instructions from President Violeta Chamorro, I hereby respond to your letter dated 27 September, in which you address several issues regarding the bilateral dialogue between the government and UNO. In this letter you state that several options were agreed upon at the 16 September meeting for resolving the National Assembly problems, adding that one of the said options was to be executed. Given that the Government Dialogue Commission has no knowledge of any such decision at the above-mentioned meeting, I hereby request you advise us accordingly to help us understand the contents of your letter.

I also would like to ask you to clearly state your position regarding the continuation of the bilateral talks. As we all know, three of the five members of the government's commission—Pereira, Rosales, and Vigil—were totally absorbed by the negotiations with the representatives of the transportation sector all last week. This week, other members of the commission—Leal and Guerra—will accompany the president to the UN.

Nevertheless, last week our commission offered to continue the talks, if you would be kind enough to accept the appointment of other ministers to replace those tasked with the aforementioned negotiations, or to replace those who will be traveling abroad. To date, this offer has not been accepted.

We believe in dialogue, and we are willing to continue the talks with UNO. We believe in the need to find a grand nationwide agreement between the government and all sectors of the community, and we know that this must come from a tripartite agreement between the government, UNO, and the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

In light of this, we request an answer to our offer to continue the dialogue as soon as possible, as stated earlier.

[Signed] Yours truly, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo

National Police Issue Communique on Commander Slaying

PA2909040493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Communique issued by the National Council of the National Police's General Directorate on 27 September in Managua—read by announcer]

[Text] Gathered at the National Command Headquarters of the National Police's General Directorate, the top consultation authority, the National Council announces the following to the national and international public:

1. We have held a special working meeting to analyze the latest developments in the country where our brother and comrade Regiment Commander Saul Alvarez Ramirez was killed.

2. The National Police are committed, as outlined in the Constitution and the laws, to protect the lives, individual freedom, and security of all of the citizens of this country for the sake of stability and peace. Consequently, the police's restoration of public order when disrupted is legitimate because they are acting as a legally established authority.

3. In each major incident in which police had to intervene, we have acted responsibly, professionally, and calmly, and we have insisted on employing dialogue and peaceful means to resolve conflicts.

In view of the postwar situation, the economic and social crisis, and the existing polarization in our country, we condemn the use of violence for resolving conflicts, regardless of how just the demands involved are. Violence only leads to more victims—victims we do not want—as well as to more damage and destruction.

4. We recognize the belligerent role played by the media, and we urge them to contribute with responsible, objective, and professional messages to achieve stability and to seek solutions to the problems our country is facing.

5. We reiterate our professional responsibility in analyzing the repudiable incidents in which Regiment Commander Saul Alvarez Ramirez and Mrs. Rosmelda Martinez died. We will spare no efforts to bring to court those responsible for these crimes.

6. We reiterate that every citizen has the duty to help in the pacification of Nicaragua by contributing to the disarmament process and by helping authorities find and deliver weapons and other war materiel. This is a basic part of the effort to reduce and eradicate violence.

7. We express our sorrow and are grateful for the messages of condolence and solidarity voiced by different sectors. Nevertheless, we feel the best way to honor the death of our brother Saul is to contribute, frankly and effectively, to national stability and reconciliation.

[Issued] Managua, 27 September 1993

[Signed] National Council, National Police's General Directorate

Panama

Teachers Strike Prompts Endara To Cancel Trip to UN

PA2909040593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From "The RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara today decided to cancel his trip to the United Nations because of the teachers strike, according to a bulletin by the Presidency Press Secretariat. The bulletin says the president, who was scheduled to make his annual speech before the United Nations on Tuesday, 5 October, hopes that his decision to remain in the country contributes to ending the teachers strike.

Protesters Stage March, Issue Demands to Presidency

PA2909044593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From "The RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] The march staged today by the People's Coordinating Board for Human Rights in Panama concluded with a meeting at Cathedral Plaza, while the minister of the Presidency met with 12 representatives of the different organizations staging the protest. The representatives presented a 15-point list of demands, which included their support for all of the organizations. In addition, they demanded respect for the agreements reached with Intel [National Institute of Telecommunications], IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], the Postal Office, the University of Panama, various wage accords, and other agreements.

At the time of this report, representatives of the organizations are meeting with Presidency Minister Julio Harris. No details of the issues under discussion have been learned. Late this afternoon, Legislative Assembly President Arturo Vallarino told RPC Television that if the executive branch does not find a prompt solution to the salary demands of teachers, the executive branch [as heard] will submit a draft bill this coming Thursday [30 September] to the assembly, offering to pay part of the salary increases demanded by teachers and permitting classes to resume as soon as possible.

Argentina

'Clear Sovereign Rights' Over Falklands Reiterated

PY2909033993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1833 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (AFP-NA)—Today, before the international community, Argentina reiterated its "well-founded and clear sovereign rights" over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands, pointing out that the "peaceful and negotiated" recovery of the islands continues to be the "main and permanent issue" of its foreign policy.

In his address to the 48th UN General Assembly, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said that the Buenos Aires government "is ready to start negotiations" with Great Britain on the conflict over the Malvinas Islands.

Di Tella, before an auditorium of chiefs of state and government, foreign ministers and representatives of the 184 UN member countries, stated: "I reassert Argentina's well-founded and clear sovereign rights over those territories and over South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands."

Argentina tried in vain to recover the islands through military action in 1982, but its troops were expelled by British forces at the end of the "war over the Malvinas" that ended on 15 June of that same year. According to the foreign minister, "relations with Great Britain would be excellent if it were not for the South Atlantic conflict where, in addition to the main dispute, there are also pending 'concrete issues' in which some 'progress' has been made." Di Tella added: "We have managed to reduce the security restrictions inherited from the 1982 conflict, and have reached a provisional agreement in the fishing field for 1993."

The minister went on to say that negotiations for a new agreement "are currently jeopardized by the recent unilateral British jurisdictional measures in the area of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands." Any agreement "must necessarily reflect the legitimate Argentine decision to now adapt the quantity it fishes to the true potential of the area." Argentina recently reduced its fishing quota in the zone in order to preserve the maritime species, especially squid, while the enterprises granted fishing permits by Great Britain surpass the quantity which is "reasonable from the ecological viewpoint," said Di Tella.

Regarding the oil in this region, for which the key issue of the conflict is prospecting, Di Tella said that "there is an impasse due to rejection of a proposal for cooperation made by Argentina, as well as the British decision to act unilaterally." Di Tella said that "we are convinced there is no other true alternative than cooperation" and asserted that Argentina's relationship with the islanders "is a field in which important developments have taken place these past few months." He said that the dialogue with the islanders "enjoys my country's full support, and represents a natural development in the civilized search for a solution to the conflict."

On another subject, Di Tella requested prompt reimbursement by the United Nations of contributions made by states involved in peacekeeping operations, asserting that the delay in payments is causing "very serious financial problems" for the interested countries. The states concerned are for this reason "facing growing difficulties in increasing their contributions of troops and equipment, as this is affected by their own domestic budget limitations," he said.

The United Nations currently owes Argentina approximately $12 million for its participation in nine peacekeeping operations, according to a spokesman for the Argentine mission to the United Nations. Di Tella said that his country "has the firm political will to support these operations to the extent allowed by its own means."

Regarding the possible reorganization of the UN Security Council, Di Tella said that the executive organ of this organization "has recovered the role assigned to it in the Charter." Recommending "extreme caution," Di Tella said that increasing the number of Security Council members "should be based on a consensus, always respecting the principle of the equal sovereignty of the states." Di Tella called for "the necessary prudence so as not to place at stake" the council's capacity to "efficiently fulfill the responsibilities it is charged with by the Charter" of the United Nations.

The Security Council currently has 15 members, five of which are permanent members, with a right to veto (the United States, Russia, China, Great Britain, and France). The other 10 members are not permanent members, and have a two- year mandate. Next January, Argentina will join the Council replacing Venezuela.

Menem Says Skyhawks 'Will Come to Argentina'

PY2909001793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1859 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Corrientes, 28 Sep (NA)—Today, President Carlos Menem said the U.S.-made Skyhawk A-4M "will come to Argentina" although he admitted that the government is still "discussing" with Washington the possibility that the deal will include Westinghouse radar equipment, despite strong opposition from Great Britain.

Defense Minister Oscar Camilion said he is ready to carry out an official offensive to get the modern equipment and announced that he will send a note on this issue to U.S. Ambassador James Cheek in the next few days.

In the note, Camilion will explain "the need for the planes to be equipped with Westinghouse radar," which the U.S. Government refuses to supply under pressure from the British.

Today, Menem and Camilion headed the Army military exercises named "Mesopotamia I" at the Campo Avalos zone near Paso de los Libres, where about 1,000 soldiers and 160 Army vehicles were deployed. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Sanchez de Lozada Meets President Clinton

PY2809214093 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] We have received a report on the brief meeting between Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton. Sanchez de Lozada said that President Clinton has confirmed his desire to become closer to Latin America, adding that he will do everything possible to extend the free trade treaty to include South America.

Sanchez de Lozada added that they also talked about restructuring the Bolivian executive branch. President Clinton expressed special interest in sustainable development and the Environment Ministry. Concerning the mining crisis, Sanchez de Lozada said he has the impression that Bolivia will find solidarity.

The message to the United Nations intends to stress the fact that economic adjustment processes must be accompanied by profound changes in the social area. South America in general, and Bolivia in particular, are way behind other countries in social services and the injustices existing in the country are serious. Sanchez de Lozada said that this will be the gist of our message.

President To Attend Rio Group Meeting

PY2809141693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga has confirmed reports that Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will attend the Rio Group meeting in Santiago de Chile on 16 and 17 October this year. This will take place on the third weekend of next month.

We feel that it would be more prudent for the Bolivian president to abstain from attending this meeting because of the current situation in which Chile and Bolivia have no diplomatic relations.

When we talk about our demand for an outlet to the sea, the Chileans always react in an arrogant manner, and for this reason we feel that the Bolivian president's visit to the Chilean capital is not prudent. But after all, it is the government and the chief of state who are responsible for the country's foreign policy. We are only expressing an opinion. But we think that it would be more prudent and more in accordance with our interests and with our maritime demand to maintain a clearer and firmer position in our political and diplomatic relations with Chile.

It is different when we talk about economic, trade, research, or tourist relations, but in our diplomatic, political, and government relations, we should be clearer and more consistent in our position, giving a clear sign to the Latin American community that we Bolivians cannot continue receiving such bad treatment from the Chileans, and that we can no longer allow such a reluctant position from Chile concerning our maritime demand.

Brazil

Government Adopts Stand on Constitutional Revision

PY2809173393 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 93 Section 1 p 10

[Report by Tales Faria from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] A major factor against the constitutional revision will emerge next week. President Itamar Franco is already planning to support postponing the revision for 1995. He summoned economic team members for next Tuesday for a meeting with Planalto Palace leaders in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] Senator for Rio Grande do Sul Pedro Simon, and PPS [People's Socialist Party] Deputy for Pernambuco Roberto Freire, respectively. During the meeting, the government will adopt an official position on the subject.

The trend within the government is to propose the postponement of the revision and submit to Congress a new issue of the "Big Amendment"—a single fiscal adjustment bill providing for a series of constitutional amendments that will come into force next year.

At Planalto Palace yesterday, Franco analyzed the subject with Simon and with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Simon proposed postponing the revision, and Franco agreed.

The president, however, asked Cardoso to evaluate what would happen to the fiscal adjustment if it were enforced through constitutional amendments rather than through a revision. [passage omitted]

No Position on Constitution Reform

PY2809142793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has asked his spokesman to tell the press that the government does not have a definitive position on constitutional reform because it is not aware of the issue as it is being discussed by the press.

The government does not have a concrete position on constitutional reform. This is what President Franco

said. The phrase was transmitted to journalists through Press Secretary Francisco Baker.

According to Baker, the government is not aware of the issue as it is being discussed by the newspapers, which say that the president of the Republic favors a postponement of the revision. Baker said that Franco does not have a definite position on the issue of constitutional reform. The president is scheduled to meet Senator Pedro Simon at Government Palace today. The agenda includes the government leadership in the Senate which has been vacant ever since Pedro Simon asked to be relieved.

President Itamar Franco will decide whether to promulgate or partially veto the draft electoral bill approved by Congress on 2 October.

SAE To Help Monitor Amazon Region

PY2809183193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 93 p A15

[Article by Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia— The Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE) will be one of the main tools for Environment and Amazon Region Minister Rubens Ricupero to implement the plan for the integration and preservation of the region. During the two meetings held so far by SAE chief Admiral Mario Flores and Minister Ricupero they assessed the need to create the Amazon Region Surveillance System (Sivam) which will allow the government organizations to react immediately to any irregularity in the Amazon such as the clearing of land by burning, drug trafficking, contraband, occupation of Indian reserves, among others. Currently, due to the lack of a communications system, the authorities learn about the irregularities but have no means to react.

Minister Flores believes that the ideal situation would be for this system to protect the Amazon, which was approved in 1990 but has only now gained force, to reach the Peruvian, Colombian, Venezuelan, and Guyanan jungles. Flores believes that full control of the area will only thus be possible.

Mario Flores upholds the creation of regional communication control centers in the capitals of the neighboring countries, something like there will be in Manaus, Porto Velho, and Belem. The SAE chief also recalled that the current lack of communication does not allow the neutralization of public disasters and leaves the people without assistance.

During his meeting with Ricupero, Flores placed the SAE's under secretariat for special projects at the minister's disposal. This department's personnel are trained to transmit any type of information on the region. In its archives one can find, for example, the entire history of the demarcation of the Indian reserves in the Amazon.

The SAE is responsible for dividing the Amazon into economic and ecological regions, but the government does not know how long it will take to complete this task. The program has made more progress in Para and Amazonas but, in order to complete the job in Para alone the SAE needs more than $20 million. In the minister's opinion, there is currently no need for a detailed survey of the Amazon. Ricupero said that there are huge areas in Amazonas, for example, that remain untouched and that the survey can wait. In his opinion, the research should be focused, for example, on the areas along the Solimoes River and the highway that links Manaus and Boa Vista.

Economy Minister has 'No Program' To Submit to IMF

PY2809202493 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Sep 93 p 12

[Report by correspondent Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva, from Washington]

[Text] Upon getting off the plane in Washington, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said yesterday that he has "no program" to submit to the International Monetary Fund: "I come empty-handed," Cardoso said, smiling, after arriving at Dulles International Airport at 0800 local time (0900 Brasilia time) on a Transbrasil flight from Brasilia.

"We are still discussing things between ourselves. I do not even know whether there will be a constitutional revision and how broad it will be. How can I imagine what will happen in 1994 if I do not know the changes that will occur in the taxation area? What should I say here? Should I invent something? I can only talk about what we have already done and about our intentions. I have no program," he said.

According to Cardoso, not even foreign debt concerns or a "stand-by" agreement with the IMF will be on the agenda of the talks with the Fund. "Of course we will talk. But the debt problem was postponed." Brazil had to sign an agreement on its $35 billion debt with private banks in November, but the decision was delayed.

One of the reasons for the delay was the lack of an agreement between Brazil and the Fund. Even though Brazil has reserves it could offer as a guarantee, and even though bigger banks are eager to sign the agreement as soon as possible, the U.S. Government has insisted on the need to reach an agreement beforehand with the IMF. Some banks liked the delay for fiscal policy reasons.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Rudi Dornbusch, who specializes in Brazilian affairs, said in Washington—where he is attending a congress on the world economy, being held at the same time as the IMF annual meeting—that he does not expect Cardoso to submit an economic plan to IMF Managing Director

Michel Camdessus. Dornbusch believes conditions are not yet ripe for such a plan.

Within the IMF, the atmosphere with respect to Brazil is not very good. Even though there is still good will because of the size of the Brazilian economy, consecutive unfulfilled commitments and government team replacements have worn out the political capital of the leaders, who claim that it is necessary to continue giving Brazil a credit of confidence.

Brazil will hardly reach an agreement with the IMF without a broad fiscal reform. The most recent agreement was reached by former Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira in 1991. But as Brazil never complied with the agreement's quarterly targets, the agreement was not implemented and the Fund did not disburse the scheduled loans.

Police, Drug Traffickers Clash; 40 Kg Coke Seized

PY2909023293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by Rio de Janeiro correspondent Paula Beltier]

[Text] A shootout between drug traffickers and policemen has terrified a Rio de Janeiro slum. The shootout, between drug traffickers from the Coroado slum in Acari and Drug Control Division policemen, federal police agents, and civilian police teams, lasted about seven hours.

Everything started when Niteroi Drug Control Division policemen, carrying out an operation in the slum, were received with gunfire by more than 30 drug traffickers. Although 200 policemen then surrounded the slum, the drug traffickers continued shooting, throwing grenades, and expelling slum dwellers in order to use their dwellings as hideouts.

Eight drug traffickers were killed and 12 people injured, including four policemen. The police managed to arrest seven drug traffickers, who are now in a police precinct.

During their operation the policemen seized a true arsenal: three AR-15 rifles, three machine guns, two Super 12 semiautomatic shotguns, two 7.62-caliber rifles, an abundance of ammunition, and 50 grenades.

Superintendent Antonio Mach, the Niteroi Drug Control Division chief, stressed that the shootout made the slum look like a military stronghold:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...the shootout, which subsequently continued. Heavy weapons, more than 15 machine guns, were used. There was one unusual aspect, the grenades, the number of grenades they hurled at our people. Can you believe it? I had never seen such a thing in my life. They used more than 50 grenades: a true military stronghold, a true Vietnam. [end recording]

During the raid, 40 kg of cocaine and 30 kg of marijuana were also seized. Despite the police cordon, William Monte Neto, aka Paracao, the Coroado slum's drug boss, managed to escape.

Spread of Drug Trafficking Noted

PY2809212793

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese on 26 September publishes on page 18 five brief articles on the spread of drug trafficking in Rio de Janeiro.

A 300-word article by Solange Duarte, entitled "Drug Traffickers Establish 'Branches' To Hide Drugs and Weapons," notes that "Rio de Janeiro drug traffickers have decided to expand their business by establishing 'branches' to hide weapons and sell narcotics." Duarte reports that the constant raids by military police in the leading shantytowns have led the Red Brigades and the Third Command, which "vie with each other for complete control of drug trafficking," to establish "branches" in less important slums so as "not to draw police attention."

Duarte says that these branches, which are well equipped with weapons and "generally sell drugs wholesale," have been established in Niteroi, Sao Goncalo, the western area, and in the less important hills and slums from the southern and northern areas. She adds that "drug kingpins hardly ever go there" because they send their "managers" to represent them. The article further states that the drug traffickers' modus operandi is the same as elsewhere: namely, they distribute food and pay for day care centers, thus "buying the silence of shantytown dwellers."

A 150-word unattributed article reports that the Rio de Janeiro hills have become "mere working places for drug kingpins," as they no longer live there. The article states that the reason behind this shift is "first and foremost a matter of security, the 'owner' of the hill is thus less vulnerable to police forays." The other reason is that the Red Brigades, who "control over 80 percent of the drug trafficking in Rio de Janeiro, are trying to expand their business to other states."

A 200-word unattributed article discusses how drug traffickers get their weapons, noting that most of the weapons come to the country by sea. "When they are transported in vessels of large tonnage, generally sailing under the Libyan flag, they ride at anchor further up from Ponte Rio-Niteroi, with the weapons then being transferred to smaller boats." Pitangueiras Beach in Governors Island, the fishing colony of Caju, and yacht clubs located at Governors Island are among the weapons' final destinations.

The article notes that at present drug traffickers "have a preference" for two "bases," namely Sepetiba Beach and Madeira Island. The article further states that Romildo Souza da Costa, alias Miltinho, is "a key piece for the

arrival of weapons," as his gang is in charge of overseeing the arrival of weapons. The article notes that "even the Red Brigades pay Miltinho a sort of bonus so that the weapons may pass through the area that is under his control." The weapons are then transported to the hills by car, in which "an elegantly dressed couple and a baby ride."

A 210-word unattributed article deals with the establishment of lookout posts in forest reserve clearings by drug traffickers and the Red Brigades. The article reports that these clearings are also used as "concentration camps for torturing and executing enemies." The article notes that one of these concentration camps, the Tijuca Forest, was deactivated last July, and another one located in the Alto da Boa Vista was destroyed by the police on 17 September.

In a 400-word article by Julio Cesar Guimaraes entitled "Hills and Residential Complexes Under the Sway of Gangs," the author writes of the shantytowns located in the Rio de Janeiro hills, which are controlled by gangs of drug traffickers. Guimaraes states that the slums are used as "transshipment points for drugs and weapons and, above all, as hideouts for dangerous drug traffickers." The author notes that most of the shantytowns and residential complexes "belong" to the Red Brigades, although the Third Command has already discovered the advantages of "settling in neighboring municipalities to Rio de Janeiro."

In conclusion the author states that the war between "neutral drug traffickers" and the Red Brigades over the control of Prazeres Hill in Santa Teresa last June enabled the police to realize how heavily armed the drug traffickers are. Guimaraes says that the police "could only climb the hill two days after the war had broken out."

Ministers Lobby for Higher Budget Allocations

PY2809155093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Sep 93 Section 1 p 13

[Article by Fernando Godinho from Brasilia]

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's "real budget" has come under fire in Congress. Some ministers are thoroughly dissatisfied with the financial resources to be appropriated to their ministries by the economic team headed by Cardoso.

At present, the most active lobbies [preceding word in English] are from the military ministries, which will not acquiesce in having only $8.19 billion in budget allocations at their disposal, less than 5 percent of the national budget, which is estimated at $183.36 billion. Senator Raimundo Lira (PFL-PB) [Liberal Front Party-Paraiba], chairman of the Budget Committee, concedes that "it is a very low budget."

The military ministers are resolute in pushing ahead with their demands for greater budget allocations. Thus, they will lobby deputies sitting on the Budget Committee. The chief of the Joint Staff and the Navy, Aeronautics, and Army ministers will meet with the aforementioned committee members in a public hearing before a plenary session of the Senate on 29 September.

The military ministers have not yet disclosed what their claims concerning the 1994 budget will be. But their military advisers' comings and goings to the Budget Committee show that they are concerned, first and foremost, with the estimated investment in defense made by the Finance Ministry. Those advisers remark that it is impossible for Brazil to attain the "ideal model" of Armed Forces with the current budget.

The Aeronautics Ministry came off the worst of all concerning the new budget as it will be allocated the smallest budget of all the ministries, approximately $130 million. These appropriations will be earmarked for the Ship Design Management Corporation and will barely cover administrative and planning-related expenses.

Senator Lira told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO that "that type of lobby is a common occurrence and is necessary. There are many government sectors that are discontented with the budget drafted by the economic team."

The Environment Ministry is the next in line to discuss the 1994 budget with the Budget Committee. Rubens Ricupero, environment minister and special minister for the Amazon Region, and Amanzon Region governors, will also meet with the foregoing committee next month.

Pedro Simon Resigns as Senate Government Leader

PY2909031293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco's meeting with Senator Pedro Simon has just ended. Reporter Luiz Augusto Mendonca will now speak live from Planalto Palace.

[Begin recording] [Mendonca] Senator Pedro Simon will be responsible for the government's leadership only until President Itamar Franco indicates the name of the new leader in the Senate. President Itamar Franco's meeting with Senator Pedro Simon has just ended. Senator Pedro Simon, what is the status of the government's leadership in the Senate?

[Simon] I have definitely surrendered my post to the president. He accepted this. He understood my reasons: The series of remarks I have been making do not agree with the government's leadership.

Nevertheless, he asked me to remain responsible for this post until he names a new leader in the next few days. At the same time he asked me to carry out a task which involves representing him in the talks between the president of the Republic and the forces of society, the bodies representative of society. I believe this is an important mission. I was even touched and, to the extent possible, I will attempt to carry out this task.

The president, and this is precisely the question you will ask, is carefully monitoring the development of the discussions in Congress. He said the government is prepared for either one of the decisions: If Congress decides for constitutional reform, there is a set of measures being discussed and reviewed by the government, which will be sent to Congress as a proposal. And if Congress decides for amendments, there is also a group studying precisely the measures to be taken in this regard. The president believes this decision must be made exclusively by Congress and, being aware of the fact that there are split positions in Congress, it would be a very delicate matter for him to have adopted a personal position as president of the Republic.

[Mendonca] Those were the words of Senator Pedro Simon, who will remain as government leader in the Senate until President Itamar Franco defines the selection of a new leader.

Senator Pedro Simon also emphasized that the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] will retain the Agriculture Ministry. The president will meet with PMDB President Luiz Henrique in the next few days. [end recording]

Bornhausen Confirmed as PFL President

PY2809224493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday, the PFL [Liberal Front Party] confirmed former Minister Jorge Bornhausen as the new national president of the party. The single candidate on the ticket, Bornhausen is replacing Deputy Jose Mucio Monteiro (PE) [Pernambuco], with the mission of reorganizing the party in Sao Paulo and leading the PFL campaign for the constitutional revision. Doubts over the constitutional revision will lead the party to present an official motion demanding compliance with the Constitution.

Given that the party considers the issue closed, a certain uneasiness was felt when Senator Josaphat Marinho (BA) [Bahia] expressed his opposition to the constitutional revision. Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes addressed the party members. While praising Josaphat, he said it was a mistake to oppose revision of the Constitution: "Though I am not an expert, I read a lot of books and I know Senator Josaphat is wrong," Magalhaes said.

The PFL will pressure Congress this week so that discussion of the constitutional revision is not interrupted. The PFL wants to establish firm dates to begin and end work on the constitutional revision.

Besides Bornhausen, Deputy Ricardo Fiuza (PE) was installed as first vice president of the party. The slate also includes Senator Odacir Soares (RO) [Roraima] as second vice president, Deputy Eraldo Tinoco (BA) as secretary general, and Deputy Gustavo Krause (PE) as coordinator of the government plan. Bornhausen, Fiuza, and Tinoco were ministers during the Collor administration. Odacir was one of those who argued that Collor should remain in his post.

Magalhaes Polled as PFL Presidential Candidate

PY2809234793 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—O GLOBO has asked PFL [Liberal Front Party] convention delegates whether they would favor proposing their own candidate for the presidency of the Republic or supporting a coalition candidate. The delegates showed widespread preference for the candidacy of Bahia State Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, but without entirely ruling out a possible coalition with the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] with Paulo Maluf, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] with Jose Sarney, or even the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

The survey consulted 170 delegates, of whom only 145, however, participated in the survey, during their official registration periods from 0900 to 1500 on the 25th and from 0900 to 1300 on the 26th.

O GLOBO considered that each delegate had a single vote. During the PFL national convention to select a candidate or join a coalition, however, the 202 registered convention delegates will have the right to more than 300 votes. Some convention delegates have the right to up to four votes.

The survey offered those questioned a list of the following candidates from the party: Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, Jorge Bornhausen, Marco Maciel, Silvio Santos, and Vilson Kleinubing. They also voted on the possibility of a coalition, choosing between Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jose Sarney, Paulo Maluf, or by writing the name of their preferred "other" candidate in a blank space.

The Presidential Candidates:

Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, 78 votes; Marco Maciel, 22 votes; Silvio Santos, 18 votes; Jorge Bornhausen, 6 votes; Vilson Kleinubing, 3 votes;

In Coalition:

Paulo Maluf, 42 votes; Jose Sarney, 33 votes; Fernando Henrique Cardoso, 16 votes;

Others:

Jaime Lemer, 3 votes; Alvaro Dias, Benito Gama, Ibsen Pinheiro, Luiz Inacio, Lula da Silva, and Antonio Britto, 1 vote each

Blank votes: 3

Null and void votes: 1

Of the 170 participants in the convention, 145 were polled.

Collor Plans To Return to Public Office

PY2809234993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE S.1O PAULO in Portuguese 26 Sep 93 Section 1 p 18

[Article by Josias de Souza, from the Brasilia bureau]

[Excerpt] Fernando Collor de Mello has been living in silent retreat at the Casa da Dinda for the past year. Now he has decided to make a comeback He plans to be a Sao Paulo federal deputy candidate. He fills the emptiness of his days smoking Hoyo de Monterrey Cuban cigars, the ones Fidel Castro always sends him, and collecting information for a book. He wants to publish the book before the election, expecting that its contents will put him back in the news.

Collor was separated from the presidency on 29 September 1992 through the votes of 441 deputies (with 38 against), who thus opened an impeachment process.

Collor is preparing for war like Napoleon Bonaparte did during his exile on the island of Elba. In his solitude he is already risking a few potshots at Itamar Franco ("provincial and mediocre"), but Napoleon's example does not preclude another defeat.

Collor's Waterloo could be the STF [Federal Supreme Court] plenum. In this case, his Duke of Wellington will be Justice Carlos Velloso, who will analyze a petition to restore his political rights that were suspended for eight years. If Velloso rules against restoring Collor's political rights, he would most likely be followed by the other STF justices.

A rejection by the STF would kill Collor's plans and he would have to shelve his idea of running again. Without an endorsement, his dream of continuing his political career runs the risk of languishing in exile at the Casa de Dinda.

The absence of congressional immunity would add to Collor's risk of being tried for common crimes. In this case, the Casa da Dinda would look more like the island of Santa Helena, where Napoleon died after a long exile. [passage omitted]

Chile

* Central Bank Issues New Savings, Investment Figures

93SM0419D Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Aug 93 p B1

[Text] This week the Central Bank released the new series of national accounts using 1986 as a base year, which will replace the old set, with a base year of 1977.

The biggest surprises came in the areas of national investment and savings. There were two points. The first is that both series of numbers show rates higher than those in the old national accounts. In other words, Chile has been saving and investing more than what had been thought. Secondly, both investment and savings show a decline starting in 1989, when the peak was reached; this was not shown in the figures using 1977 as a base.

The following points can be made:

1. According to the investment statistics, investment reached a maximum of 25.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 1989, slipped to 24.7 percent in 1990, to 22.2 percent in 1991, and moved up to 23.7 percent in 1992. This series is measured in terms of prices for each year—current prices—as that is how the true costs of investment decisions made in each period are measured. In any case, if the 1986 base year numbers are taken into account, the trend is the same, that is, the maximum is recorded in 1989, with a fall for the next two years, and a slight recovery in 1992. So the first conclusion that may be drawn is that total investment has still not returned to 1989 levels.

2. Strictly speaking, this situation is not good for Chile, as it is investment which determines its future growth potential. Still, a closer look suggests that the decline in total investment can basically be explained by a decline in inventory, while fixed capital formation showed a different trend, with 1992 ending with a rate slightly higher than in 1989. In other words, the amount of machinery, equipment, and construction in which money is being invested each year has not declined.

3. The savings situation follows a similar pattern. In looking at national savings, first we see a quite large increase during the 1985-89 period. In 1989 savings reached their peak level, 23.7 percent of the GDP. After that year the rate began to decline, until reaching 22 percent in 1992. This trend seems disturbing, as all successful development experiences finance their investment with high domestic savings rates.

4. An explanation for the savings situation can be found in the evolution of Chile's investment terms. Starting in 1989 we began to observe price declines in our major export products, a situation which ultimately means reduced revenues for the nation. According to the Central Bank, if we deduct the resources placed in the Copper Stabilization Fund, the 1989 rate changes from 23.7 percent to 19.4 percent. So, again according to the Central Bank, the 1992 savings were 21.7 percent of the GDP, as in that year copper resources were normal and no deposits of significance were made in the Stabilization Fund.

5. There are basically two versions of the conclusions that may be drawn from the new savings and investment statistics. The first is Minister Foxley's interpretation. He said that the larger figures allow us to place the economy's midterm growth at a rate over 7 percent a year, and not 6 percent, as had been said until now.

The Central Bank, though, is more cautious, since while the new national accounts have increased the savings and investment rates, they did not see a similar change in the production growth rate, which remained at figures very similar to those recorded using the old series of numbers. Therefore, one could reach the opposite conclusion to that of Minister Foxley, and say that in order to get the rates Chile had in the past, savings and investment would need to exceed what we had thought was required. In other words, capital productivity is not as high as we had thought.

The latter interpretation responds very well to the question that many foreign observers had asked about the Chilean economy. How can Chile grow so much? The answer might be clear: we were investing more.

In any case, this is an open question and as the Central Bank said, in order to reach more precise conclusions we need more extensive studies than the ones being analyzed now.

6. What may indeed be concluded is that Chile is moving toward savings and investment rates that are sufficient to finance high long-term growth rates. So the great bottleneck which had held the Chilean economy in a stranglehold some years ago is disappearing. And that is good news.

* Judge Applies Amnesty in Several Human Rights Cases

93SM0419A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Aug 93 p C7

[Text] Over 15 cases involving disappearances, executions, and unlawful arrests, which had been under temporary stays, have been reopened in order to be dismissed by the second Military Court of Santiago, at the petition of the Military Prosecution Service.

The dismissal proceedings in progress for the past three weeks have revived some old cases that date back to the years prior to and immediately following the Amnesty Law of March 1978, according to records turned over by FASIC [Christian Churches Social Assistance Foundation].

Attorney Veronica Reyna of FASIC confirmed the situation, saying: "This fast move on the part of military justice surprised us; we do not know if these cases had been lost or if they were acting at the government's initiative."

Her organization learned about the decisions after a number of legal notifications were served at the office of the now defunct Vicar's Office of Solidarity and the offices of some of the attorneys who had been involved in those cases.

To date eight notifications have been received, although military judicial sources told this newspaper that between 10 and 20 cases had been definitively closed.

The same sources explained that the Military Prosecution Service was the organization that asked the military judge of Santiago, General Hernan Ramirez, to reopen the cases, which had been under a temporary stay. This meant that at some future time they could have been reopened if new evidence had appeared.

The reopening then made it possible to request the application of the Amnesty Law or to have criminal action barred under the statute of limitations; this procedure was used specifically in cases of executions.

The notification of the dismissals enabled FASIC to appeal the resolutions in at least four of the cases, and the decisions of the Military Court will be reviewed by the [Superior] Martial Court.

According to the records provided by FASIC, one case dismissed is case no 18-78, involving the disappearance of an MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] activist, Guillermo Gonzalez de Asis, on 12 September 1973; he had been held in Villa Grimaldi. In this case the Amnesty Law was applied.

Another case dismissed was the disappearance of a former deputy and member of the Political Commission of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party, Carlos Lorca Tobar, which occurred on 25 June 1975. That case is number 585-76.

Another case is no 761-79, the death of Juan Bautista Nunez Vargas, in Paine in September 1973; his remains later turned up in Cuesta Chada. In this case an order barring criminal prosecution because of the expiration of the statute of limitations was sought, as over 15 years had elapsed since the events had taken place.

A dismissal was also issued in a case involving the disappearance of a professor at the Catholic University of Chile and member of the Communist Party, Alejandro Avalos Davinson, whose whereabouts have been unknown ever since February 1976.

A fifth case closed is no 479-77 for the unlawful arrest of William Zuleta Mora, who was arrested and sentenced by a military board.

* New Sofofa President Views Participation in Politics

93SM0419B Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 13 Aug 93 p 15

[Interview with Pedro Lizana, Sofofa [Industrial Development Association] president, by Mireya Seguel;place and date not given]

[Text] Businessman Pedro Lizana is very pleased with his new position as president of Sofofa. He took over the job from Hernan Briones last Wednesday and will hold office for two years. Numerous congratulatory messages have poured into the office located at Agustinas 1357, and there have also been many expressions of pleasure

from the organization's staff, who consider him a likable man who is respected by his peers.

"It is a great honor and distinction that businessmen as important as the members of this association have chosen a modest businessman like myself as their spokesperson," said the business leader, who is known for his good humor and cordiality.

[Seguel] What are Sofofa's top priorities for this period?

[Lizana] There are both short and mid-term goals. I will no longer be here for the long-term goals. The short-term goals, which we consider the most important, are related to the competitiveness of Chilean industry, which has recently been diminished by the position of the dollar, and interest rates. In the mid-term period, two things are of concern to me: training human resources and technological innovation.

[Seguel] Do you see a willingness in government authorities to achieve these goals?

[Lizana] I believe Chile is in a very good economic position, though the industrial growth rate is declining. Still, we have to seek dialogue with government officials so they will understand our views. There has been a very capable, open team of people there, but we have not been able to persuade them to do some things we would like to have done. Some are life or death matters.

[Seguel] Hernan Briones' statements were always somewhat controversial, which created more than one problem with the government...and with some other sectors....

[Lizana] The truth must always be told. We have a proverb saying: "You have to tell the truth, even if it appears to be a lie," but of course there are different ways of doing that. First of all, no personal attacks should be made, but references should be made to specific measures and specific situations to which you think priority should be given at a particular time. The government people seem to me to be sensible enough to deal with these issues.

[Seguel] Do you hope to have a smooth relationship with the government people?

[Lizana] I have always had a very good relationship with everybody. From workers up to presidents of Chile's largest corporations. And also with politicians.

[Seguel] Do you think there is any danger of a recession in Chile, as a result of the international situation?

[Lizana] No. The rate of growth does seem to be declining; this is very clear in industry, but we cannot say the country is in a recession.

[Seguel] Government officials would like to see a decline in the economy's rate of growth.

[Lizana] The authorities greatly fear inflation, but they should be careful not to sacrifice too much growth.

[Seguel] What about you; are you afraid of inflation?

[Lizana] Inflation that stays below 15 percent seems healthy to us.

[Seguel] In your opinion, what should relations with workers be like? Their leaders say the benefits of economic stability have only reached businessmen, and not the workers.

[Lizana] Here we have a difference in viewpoints. If we look at statistics on job increases and multiply that by the earnings that have been generated, we see that overall salary growth has been very strong, and that has been very good for everyone. I think the best union is full employment.

[Seguel] The idea is also to have a smooth dialogue with the workers?

[Lizana] Yes. Dialogue with the workers is the best thing that can be done in a modern company, by both parties, but it has to be worked out in each company. A good dialogue improves productivity and the company, and contributes to the nation's progress in every sense. If you look at countries like Japan, the quality of labor relations is a fundamental point in development.

[Seguel] Where do the negotiations on unemployment insurance stand?

[Lizana] What they are proposing seems reasonable to me, but we have to study the costs of a step like that. We should not diminish companies' competitiveness, or impact on their costs.

Politics

[Seguel] What position will Sofofa take on the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections?

[Lizana] I believe the association's leadership should not take part in partisan politics. I am not going to do that, nor have I ever done it. We are here to be spokespersons for industry, not to get involved in partisan politics. We can, though—indeed we have an obligation to—express our views about the platform of each person who is running for president, but not by campaigning as a business sector, but rather as ordinary and informed citizens.

[Seguel] Have you already spoken with the candidates?

[Lizana] We have met with all the candidates except for Arturo Alessandri, from whom I expect a visit soon.

[Seguel] But historically, businessmen have had ties to the right....

[Lizana] Well, let me tell you that in this association there are supporters of at least three of the candidates.

[Seguel] Hernan Briones announced that he supported Buchi....

[Lizana] Each businessman as a person, as a voter, is free to support whatever candidate he likes. But I believe the association's leaders should not make their preferences public, for we are public leaders. We were elected to promote Chile's industrial development and not to offer political guidance.

[Seguel] How do you see the nation's future?

[Lizana] We are greatly concerned about the public sector's efficiency, for all Chileans suffer from its inefficiency. If we want to get an ID card, it takes 10 days. If we want to establish a business, the paperwork takes us a year. That cannot be.

"I Sell a Little Happiness"

Pedro Lizana Greve started working when he was 15. At the same time he continued his education and graduated from the University of Chile with a degree in business and a minor in economics.

Before graduating he worked at Corfo [Production Development Corporation], and later at Odeplan [National Planning Office], where he worked with the present minister of finance, Alejandro Foxley, of whom he says: "He is an excellent person. I have no doubt about that. He is quite capable and very willing to listen. As a minister he has the capability to do everything, though he cannot always accomplish all he wants to do, as his is a very complex job."

Later he worked at what is now Enacar [National Coal Enterprise], at Sindelen [Association of National Electrical Industries], and finally opened his own "small" business, Inpol [expansion not given], which among other items produces balloons and publicity products. He says: "I sell a little bit of happiness."

He has also held positions on the boards of directors of a number of companies. He is chairman of the Chilean Company of Measurement Instruments, of Chilean Asphalt, and of Financial Editions, S.A., which publishes EL DIARIO.

The new Sofofa president takes great pride in being a businessman. "In the past people used to scorn us and call us exploiters of the workers. But now we are respected for the social value of our work."

* Chuquicamata Truck Operators Sign Incentives Agreement

93SM0419C Santiago LA NACION in Spanish
22 Aug 93 p 17

[Text] An historic agreement was signed yesterday at the Chuquicamata Mines, in which executives, union leaders, and miners established a new incentives system designed to boost mining productivity. The pact, reached after a week of intense three-party negotiations, links bonus payments for truck drivers and loaders to this year's rock extraction goals. It is considered a significant advance in labor relations in the mining sector.

The signing ceremony was held at noon in the Garita Bulding, located near the largest mine in the world. The ceremony was attended by the executive vice president of operations of Codelco [Copper Corporation] Chile, Maximo Pacheco, the general manager of the Chuquicamata Division, Renzo Gasparini, executives, workers, and union leaders, including the presidents of unions 1 and 2, Hernan Santelices and Fredy Hinojosa, respectively.

The agreement, to take effect on 25 August, creates an innovative self-pacing system by the drivers of the huge extraction trucks, which should substantially reduce unproductive time in mining operations; 3,000 people are directly employed by the mines. In addition, it provides for the payment of a productivity bonus intended to promote meeting the rock extraction goals during the present year.

The accord signed today was approved in a vote by the drivers; 80 percent of them voted for the proposal.

Gasparini emphasized that "in this way the people's wishes can be carried out; it means that the future is in our hands. We will create a successful enterprise where we all feel equal and know that we are working for everyone's good."

He also thanked and praised the members of the negotiating team for their work and the way in which the talks were conducted.

Santelices spoke of the changes in the style of labor-management negotiations in Chuquicamata. He said: "Change does not come from words, but from deeds. By taking part in the talks to reach this agreement, we have demonstrated our concern for the future, because our stability is also the company's stability."

He added: "We must not be afraid of discussing, of talking, for the future does not depend on anyone but ourselves. If the company is in good shape, we will all be in good shape. If workers are motivated, if they are listened to as is happening today, we can expect a much brighter future for everyone. This reflects the way change is proceeding. The change inside Chuquicamata is a true change and will work to benefit everyone."

Maximo Pacheco indicated that "what we have done in Chuquicamata today is tremendously meaningful. We are going to improve Chuqui's efficiency and productivity. And we have also demonstrated that when we decide to sit down together to think and solve the problems of this mine, then we find the determination to reach agreements. We are capable of doing this."

Colombia

Officials on Foreign Military Advisers Proposal

PA2909040393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Report by Alvaro Ayala from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] In light of the proposal made by Fenalco [National Federation of Businessmen] Chairman Sabas Pretelt de la Vega to hire foreign advisers to resolve the oversights of the Colombian Army, military authorities have responded as follows:

Today [24 September], the defense minister said the Fenalco chairman's proposal to bring in military advisers to help avert ambushes by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] against the Army is not new. Meanwhile, high-ranking military officers stated that if public order is to be enhanced, corrective measures are needed.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda] This is an appropriate proposal, but it is not new. This is what the Armed Forces have been doing. We know for a fact that we are not infallible.

[Armed Forces Commander General Hector Gil] We will reduce considerably the capabilities of the subversive elements.

[Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman] The techniques and tactics have been perfectly defined, outlined, and devised. People know their mission and they are carrying it out. [end recording]

So far this year, more than 500 Armed Forces members have been killed, while more than 1,000 others have been wounded.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister: Paraguay Has No Foreign Policy

PY2909035293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Sep 93 p 12

[By unidentified special correspondents]

[Text] New York—The precariousness and improvisation in our relationships with the other members of the international community have been recognized by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez, who yesterday admitted that Paraguay "does not have a political plan for its foreign relations." The foreign minister added: "The government will attempt to devise, for the first time in the political history of Paraguay, a plan for relations for the 1993-98 five-year period."

Elaborating on his remarks, Foreign Minister Martinez mentioned the efforts to be made by a commission tasked with this issue; a commission that might complete its work by the end of October or before the end of the year. This plan has three aspects: the establishment of a Paraguayan international policy; an action plan; and a concrete program for bilateral relations and for relations with multilateral entities and organizations.

Moving on, the foreign minister noted that the presence of the president of the Republic, engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy, at the United Nations represents Paraguay's effective and real entry into the society of nations. He emphasized: "Henceforth relations will be easier, so that the community of nations may become interested in Paraguay's destiny in the way of cooperation."

Problems With Cuba

Asked if our country would enhance its diplomatic relations with the communist countries, and specifically with Cuba, the foreign minister stressed that the only outstanding problem in such an enhancement lies in the lack of respect for human rights and nonobservance of democratic rules.

The foreign minister said Paraguay does not have any problem with the Cuban nation or the Cuban people, but rather with the system imposed by President Fidel Castro.

Martinez stressed that he trusts that during his first visit to this part of our continent, President Bill Clinton will come to Paraguay, based on the President's concern for our country as reflected by his remarks.

The Paraguayan foreign minister is developing an active participation within the framework of the 48th regular UN General Assembly, which will end this weekend.

Wasmosy Seeks To Improve International Image

PY2809215593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 28 Sep 93 pp 18-19

[Article by special correspondent Celso Chavez]

[Excerpt] New York—Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy spoke last night at the Council of the Americas. He said that he intends to change Paraguay's international image of being a sanctuary for smugglers and corrupt people of all sorts. After stating he will concentrate his efforts on achieving this objective, Wasmosy said: "We want to change Paraguay's image of being a corrupt country. We are tired of this criticism and of always being identified as smugglers and underdeveloped."

Answering questions from journalists after being decorated by the Americas Society, Wasmosy said Paraguayans deserve a better future. He said that he intends to change the country's image and that he is appealing for international solidarity to achieve this goal. He stated: "In addition to demanding that we put an end to smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering, car theft, and illegal lumber trade, we must receive the necessary

support to achieve development and allow us to earn a living in a dignified manner."

Asked what his administration has done to achieve this goal, Wasmosy said he believes this image is already changing and cited specific examples: He said that the copyright and money laundering issues have been resolved. He added that aid has been sought for the fight against trafficking because those who promote it are very powerful. Asked whether he has already sought help from those foreign institutions that demand changes in Paraguay, Wasmosy answered affirmatively, adding that we need foreign aid.

Wasmosy also stated that he talked to Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro during a luncheon with President Bill Clinton. He said his Nicaraguan colleague complained that Nicaragua used to receive aid exclusively from the Soviet Union and that currently neither the government nor the people are receiving the aid they deserve.

Wasmosy said: "Like us, Nicaragua is trying to overcome its underdevelopment. We have undertaken this democratic process without any foreign aid. If [former president Andres] Rodriguez has any merit at all it is precisely to have implemented this democratic opening without any foreign aid."

Wasmosy said Clinton told him he is following very closely the political and economic situation in Paraguay and expressed his hope it will be consolidated. [passage omitted]

Addresses Americas Society

PY2809214293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 28 Sep 93 p 19

[Text] Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has addressed the Americas Society in New York. On this occasion he decorated George Laundau, the president of the Council of the Americas.

In his speech, Wasmosy said that his economic program is based on a free market economy. Within this context, he said that it is estimated that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will total 3.5 percent, while inflation will total 15 percent.

He also discussed Paraguay's foreign debt situation, which he described as one of the best in Latin America. Wasmosy said, however, that the inflow of foreign capital has not been in keeping with the favorable macroeconomic conditions prevailing in Paraguay. Wasmosy added that the Paraguayan tax system will be further simplified to ensure an increase of revenues.

He also discussed the reorganization and streamlining of the government apparatus. He stated that Paraguay is now committed to a clean and open privatization process of public companies.

In addition, Wasmosy discussed the Treaty of Asuncion. He said this treaty poses a personal challenge for him, and that there would be difficulties. He said that the creation of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) will involve linking together 200 million consumers, and that it will play an important role in the international concert of nations.

Peru

* Proposed Method of Appointing Judges Questioned

93SM0411A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 12 Aug 93 pp 34-37, 96

[Article by Jimmy Torres]

[Text] On the same night that the death penalty was being debated, Carlos Torres y Torres Lara reserved a room in the congressional building for a press conference. He even asked Cesar Fernandez Arce to accompany him. On his agenda was the presentation of the new proposal for the National Council of the Magistracy (CNM) that was to be included in the constitution.

Fernandez Arce, who backed the previous reform proposal, is the current chairman of the Justice Commission and served as chief justice of the Supreme Court. A number of Supreme Court justices and others who have retired recall the marked pro-Fujimori bias that he manifested during certain deliberations.

On the eve of his term as chief justice of the Supreme Court in December 1991, Fernandez Arce asked the then head of Internal Control of the Judicial Branch, Guillermo Cabala Rossand, to accompany him to an important meeting with a man very close to the Palace of Government: Manuel Macedo Dianderas, who once served in the Military Legal Corps.

Macedo Dianderas was waiting for Fernandez Arce and Cabala at a restaurant in Miraflores, accompanied by none other than the former captain and presidential adviser Vladimiro Montesinos Torres.

In the course of the conversation, Montesinos reportedly promised that Fujimori was willing to go to the Palace of Justice for the official opening of the judicial year, provided that the usual speech of the justices would be more political. Cabala expressed his astonishment over the surprise meeting with the official from the Intelligence Service and said he would not accept orders concerning speeches that were solely the business of the Judicial Branch.

Without attributing much importance to the words of the Supreme Court justice, Montesinos reportedly said he had to leave and promised to meet with them again on a day when he had more time. According to the same report, Cabala asked Fernandez Arce to explain the very bizarre meeting and the latter replied that he knew nothing.

The fact is that following the dismissal of Supreme Court justices that began on 5 April, Cabala was one of those thrown out, while Fernandez Arce moved into the privileged inner circle. However, in order not to feel compromised, he resigned from the Judicial Branch. It all seemed planned: Only a few days went by before Fernandez reappeared in national public life on the list which the New M [as published] presented to the Constituent Congress.

As a result of his experience in the Judicial Branch, Fernandez became chairman of the Justice Commission in the CCD, which rapidly became a conveyor belt to the Palace. In the final analysis, everyone agreed that the Judicial Branch had to be reorganized; the disagreement arose when it came time to discuss how it would be accomplished.

Fujimori seems to have other ideas about the matter, however. Even though from the time he assumed office he called the justices "jackals," the Judicial Branch continued the old system of appointing magistrates. Thus, from the lists of three presented, he picked the judges closest to his government. Among them we have the current chief justice of the Supreme Court, former GC [Civil Guard] Luis Serpa Segura, the presiding magistrate of the Criminal Court, Moises Pantoja Rodulfo (Fujimori's high school teacher), and Mario Urrelo Garcia. One must remember that Fernandez Arce was appointed by the military dictatorship in February 1976, but was not confirmed by Fernando Belaunde's government. However, during Fujimori's term, his file was dusted off and he was confirmed. It is easy to deduce who did him the favor.

One of the reasons given to justify the 5 April coup was precisely the politicization which Fujimori's advisers allege existed in the Judicial Branch. Intelligence reports cited the "Aprista-ization" [APRA (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance)] of the Judicial Branch, the Ministry of Justice, the National Council of the Magistracy, and the Court of Guarantees.

This is why the seven lists of three candidates sent to the Executive Branch by the National Council of the Magistracy for the naming of the Supreme Court justices were vetoed by Fujimori before the 5 April coup (CARETAS 1205).

What had actually happened is that the friends and candidates of the inner sanctum did not even appear on the lists for the simple reason that they had obtained very low scores. Among them were Manuel Sanchez Palacios, Pedro Iberico Mas, Jorge Buendia Gutierrez, and Luis Almenara Bryson. These "coattail riders" would later become Supreme Court justices by presidential order.

What surprises many is that the CCD spoke of an independent, apolitical National Council of the Magistracy. In the initial draft backed by Fernandez Arce, it was to have nine members (see descriptions below).

The new element was that it would include a representative of the municipality of Lima elected by the community, an idea accepted by the majority. However, Torres y Torres Lara already had an alternative proposal that would put the Judicial Branch in the hands of the CNM. Why did Torres y Torres Lara modify the original draft of the Constitutional Commission? Why do the Executive and Legislative Branches have to choose the judges?

The idea was obviously not to depoliticize the Judicial Branch; quite the contrary.

The current problem is that no one trusts the Judicial Branch. A recent Apoyo, Inc. poll shows that despite reforms under way and the moralization process, 92 percent of all those interviewed distrust the current justices.

The opponents left following the *razzia*, including Jose Silva Vallejo and Wilbert Baca de la Zota, were promptly thrown out. People still recall that after his speech on judge's day, Silva Vallejo was pointed out as anti-Fujimorist because of his genuflecting colleagues!

However, the current justices, most of whom were questioned by the Court of Honor, are awaiting confirmation by the CCD. They are the ones who, according to the draft approved, will propose the 30 persons qualified for the National Council of the Magistracy.

In other words, it is the hand-picked Fujimorist justices who will make the selection. From this list, the Executive Branch, meaning Fujimori and his Cabinet, will pick only 20.

This list of 20 professionals will be sent to Congress so that, following accommodations by the Justice Commission and the parliamentary majority, the new members of the CNM will be picked. Those named, numbering seven, will be so thankful for their appointment to the current government that they will take it upon themselves to draft a new regulation on the appointment of justices. It would not be at all surprising if the new system for the appointment of justices were already a "done deal" and that the CNM will simply have to execute it.

Although one of the initial ideas was that the qualifying examinations should be public and without interference from the Executive or Legislative Branches, this does not seem at all likely. If it should occur, the new National Council of the Magistracy would be overseen by the people themselves and representatives of the unions and schools of law, who would thereby act as a check on Fujimoriism in the CNM.

In the face of such a measure, the Lima Bar Association (CAL) notes that the maneuvers and countermaneuvers of the majority of the CCD's are worrisome. Organs of pluralistic representation are being eliminated in order to reaffirm that only the government can name the members of the Judicial Branch and the Ministry of Justice. The constitution, the CAL emphasizes, is an instrument for the future and not a hegemonic means of concentrating power.

Nevertheless, the Executive Branch appears to have little interest in such opinions.

Appointment of Justices*

National Council of the Magistracy (Before)	System Proposed	Proposal Passed
Members, 7	Members, 9	Now, 7
Prosecutor General, Chairman	Two representatives of the Supreme Court	The Supreme Court nominates 30 candidates to the Executive Branch. Ten are reserved for former judges, prosecutors, and deans of Bar Associations and Law Schools. The remaining 20 go to persons of known integrity.
Two representatives of the Supreme Court	Two from the Lima Bar Association	The Executive Branch and Cabinet select 20
One representative of the National Federation of Bar Associations	One from the Prosecutor General's Office	The Congress of the 20 chooses 7, who will comprise the CNM
One representative of the Bar Association	One from the Law Schools of the national universities	
Two representatives of the Law Schools	One from the Law Schools of the private universities	
	One from the country's Bar Associations	
	One from the Municipality of Lima elected by the community	
Examination and Selection	Examination	Personal Interview
Curriculum		
Personal interview and oral examination		
Those obtaiing the highest scores are placed on lists of three		Order of merits
Appointment		
The Executive Branch appoints one from each list of three	The role of the Executive and Legislative Branches has not yet been defined	The one obtaining the highest score will be appointed
The Legislative Branch confirms or rejects the appointment		The role of the Executive and Legislative Branches has not yet been defined

*Since 5 April, justices and prosecutors have been "hand-picked" for appointment.

Previous to 5 April and based on the alternate proposal, the representatives of the CNM were autonomous. They will now be appointed by the Executive and Legislative Branches.

Venezuela

50 Die in Pipeline Blast; Human Error Blamed

PA2909020893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by Eligia Moreno from "The News" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A new tragedy has shocked the country. More than 50 people are dead and a large number injured following a deplorable accident which occurred early this morning at the 59-km marker of the central regional expressway.

Human error is always suspect and the theory always gains strength when it comes time to establish responsibility for fatal accidents. Nevertheless, it is ironic that no one will be able to explain the horror experienced by at least 100 victims of a tragedy which is immersing the country in mourning without distinction of race, creed, or social and economic position.

According to some national and regional leaders, various opinions are shared concerning what occurred when a gas pipeline exploded at the central regional expressway.

[Arauca Governor Carlos Tablante] "A company doing some work for CANTV [National Telephone Company of Venezuela] hit a gas pipeline. Evidently, the area is full of signs, and, therefore, it is a case of negligence. Nothing was coordinated between Corpoven [Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation] and the company in charge of the work. This has caused a tragedy, the magnitude we have yet to ascertain."

An aerial view of the area failed to reveal the sights and sounds of what was actually happening. State security corps, Federal District Firemen's Corps, and Aragua State Firemen's Corps have gathered at the central regional expressway. We are able to bring you these shots thanks to Captains Luis Raga and Ricardo Martinez, who fly the aircraft YVO-4 which belongs to the Transportation and Communication Ministry's search and rescue division.

Different organizations in charge of national security, including the Police, firemen, civil defense, National Guards, and many others were also involved in the horrible incident. Various opinions were given.

[Police Commander Vinicio Barrios] "It is undeniable. This must be carefully investigated. I think that the

company in charge of the work did not know Corpoven's gas pipeline to the central region was buried there. I suppose this is why the workers or the people in charge of the machinery used there worked without taking any precautions. That is what caused this tragedy."

Responsibility must undoubtedly be established because it is demanded by the country and the relatives of the victims who today lost their lives in an almost unexplainable way.

[Corpoven official Ricardo Pasarano] "In truth, Corpoven follows regulations in this concern. This does not mean, however, that someone, we will not talk about irresponsibility; it was simply a case of carelessness, cannot hit the pipeline at a given moment. This is exactly what we want to report."

Moreover, the driver of the machine involved in the accident that led to the rupture of the pipeline, which is used to carry gas for domestic use in Caracas, never thought he would cause a disaster when he tried to dig a trench for a CANTV optical cable. Perhaps the explosion which caused the deplorable incident did not give this worker time to complete his task. He was simply a human being with a family, just like the rest of the people who were passing through the area at the time. They ended up in various clinics to receive medical attention.

[Unidentified doctor] "Generally speaking, we have the situation under control. We received 18 patients with injuries ranging from slight burns to critical burns, as well as various bruises. They included one with a cranial injury and other types of injuries, particularly broken arms and legs."

Despite our insistent efforts, we were unable to get a statement from the CANTV president to let survivors and relatives know what measures may be adopted concerning an in-depth investigation. Some regional authorities have stated it will be necessary to reassess public highway service for the sake of all Venezuelans who travel every day along what has been called the guillotine, the regional central expressway, which today has claimed a great number of victims.

Poll: Caldera, Alvarez Paz Leading Presidential Hopefuls

PA2909031093 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Sep 93 p A1

[Text] A poll conducted by Eco-Omnimagen shows the following results on the popularity of the candidates: Rafael Caldera, 38.7 percent; Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, 27 percent; Andres Velasquez, 16.4 percent; and Claudio Fermin, 6.5 percent.

It shows the following voting preferences for political parties: Social Christian Party, 24.4 percent; Radical Cause Party, 15 percent; Movement Toward Socialism, 10.3 percent; National Convergence, 10.2 percent; and Democratic Action, 6.8 percent.

Caldera and Alvarez Paz gained ground in major cities. The former gained strength in Guayana and the latter in Guatire-Guarenas. Velasquez lost points in Valencia and Maracay, according to the poll conducted in September. Fermin continues to drop in nearly every region.